

Thatcher agrees to spell out benefit gainers and losers

By Anthony Bevis and Nicholas Timmins

The Prime Minister yesterday conceded that the Government would provide a full cost breakdown on the social security review changes, indicating which people could expect to lose and those who would gain, in the final White Paper to be published in the autumn.

But Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, last night protested that the Government should produce the figures immediately because they would directly inform the discussion on the Government's Green Paper proposals.

He said: "It's very difficult to understand why figures that cannot be produced now can be produced in a White Paper in three or four months' time. One can only assume that a certain amount of cosmetic surgery is going to take place in the meantime."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's announcement came in direct response to a Commons challenge from Mr Kinnock, who asked whether the Government had figures on gainers and losers and whether they had been by ministers.

The Prime Minister told Mr Kinnock last week that any figures issued prior to implementation of the changes in April 1987 "could only have a spurious precision and might be misleading".

Yesterday she told him in the Commons: "The proper time to produce figures is when decisions have been taken on strategy. We will publish a range of illustrative figures when the White Paper is published in the autumn."

Whitehall sources last night refused to say when Mrs Thatcher had decided to concede the point, it was stated that it had not been discussed in Cabinet. It was widely assumed at Westminster that the decision had been taken yesterday.

Mr Kinnock said that Mrs Thatcher had caved in because her position had been "untenable" and increasingly incredible. "She was out of excuses," he said.

Mr Gordon Brown, Labour MP for Dunfermline East, who has received a number of letters about the review, said last night that considerable changes had been made in the Green Paper while it was at the printers.

He said: "I have written to the Prime Minister to ask her whether the gainers and losers' figures were taken out at the Cabinet or at the printers. Whenever it was, there was a panic decision."

Confirmation that the Government has used the system outlined in the Financial Management Unit's paper, for assessing the impact of the changes came last night from Mr Anthony Nelson, Minister of State for Social Security.

On Channel Four News he said: "We used the system to the extent it was required to come to judgements at this point in time." The first headline for assessing changes



Something to shout about: Allott has Wood leg-before, the first wicket to fall in the first Test match at Headingley. John Woodcock, page 24

National gallery given £50m by John Paul Getty

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The reclusive US multimillionaire Mr Paul Getty Jr became Britain's biggest individual patron of the arts yesterday when he promised the National Gallery £50 million.

The donation, double the previous largest arts gift, £25 million from the Sainsbury family to pay for the gallery's new extension, will be the first in a series planned by Mr Getty, all to be in Britain. He intends to spend about £50 million forming a charitable trust for a wide variety of causes, including medical and social.

"I have a much greater income than I shall ever need," he said in the London Clinic, where he is being treated for circulatory problems. "The most important thing I have to do in life is to see that this income is used to the best possible purposes."

Mr Getty, aged 52, whose income from his father's estate is estimated at £28 million a year, has donated more than £10 million to causes in Britain in the past four years.

He has helped pay for the new Museum of the Moving Image being built by the British Film Institute on the South Bank, donated to the Penlee disaster fund, paid £4 million for a home for handicapped and underprivileged children near Oxford, and helped the families of striking and working miners.

Last year, he gave £400,000 to help keep a 14th century crucifixion, attributed to Duccio, in Britain.

The donation to the National Gallery will make it a force to be reckoned with in world markets and dispel the growing threat that the body might have to introduce admission charges.

The gallery has been despondent about its depleted purchase grant which, it said, was insufficient to pay higher international prices fuelled, to some extent, by the museum founded by Mr Getty's father, the Getty Foundation in California.

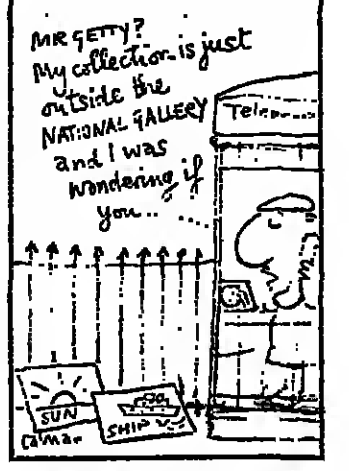
The first £20 million of the gift will arrive next week, with the balance paid over the next two years.

But Mr Getty dismissed as journalistic fantasy the idea that his donation was inspired by a desire to compete with the Getty Foundation.

"None of the American galleries need any help from me," he said.

Mr Vanni Treves, a partner in Mr Getty's solicitors Macfarlane, said: "The National Gallery will be in opposition to the Getty Museum and all other major museums in the world for the first time because it will be able to afford to be."

Two events appear to have been behind Mr Getty's choice. Continued on back page, col 2



Israel claims spy plane shot down

From Christopher Walker, Nahariya, Northern Israel

Israel claimed yesterday to have shot down a pilotless Syrian spy plane in the region of the Israeli-Lebanon border. The force official communiqué gave no further details except that the incident occurred at night.

The incident, came only days after Israel announced the withdrawal of its troops from Lebanon was complete.

The drone may have been despatched to secure details of Israel's extensive new military line-up along the twisting border, including new tented camps for the Syrian force established to patrol the 12-mile buffer zone recently established inside Lebanon.

In recent years pilotless planes have become a regular weapon for mounting intelligence missions over Lebanon but most claims of their destruction have come from the Syrian side.

Meanwhile Israel is coming under increasing diplomatic pressure to secure the quick release of the 21 Finnish UNIFIL hostages held by the South Lebanese Army militia.

A number of Western governments have refused to accept the Israeli claim that it exerts no control over the SLA, a puppet force which receives its wages.

At a meeting on Wednesday, Mr David Kinche, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, attempted to convince ambassadors of the countries contributing to UNIFIL, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, and those of member countries of the Security Council with representation in Tel Aviv, that Israel did not "control" the SLA.

A number of the envoys reacted sceptically, with at least one stating that Israel had full control over the SLA and that therefore the release of the hostages was Israel's responsibility.

Senior UN sources are convinced that Israel is attempting to use the incident to bolster the status of the SLA, the force which it has chosen to police its buffer zone in southern Lebanon.

Belligerent vow, page 7

\$550m fake credit card racket smashed

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Police and Secret Service officers in New York have smashed a two-year racket responsible for \$550 million (£420 million), in credit card losses.

The gangs had printing plants making thousands of fake cards which were embossed with genuine numbers. Many of the numbers were taken from credit card counterfoils in New York restaurants.

Mr Rudolph Giuliani, a New York prosecutor, said that forged credit card crime was relatively new and had grown in the past two years to become one of the larger revenue producers for organized crime gangs.

In raids on homes and printing plants in the city, police arrested 17 people and recovered 20,000 fake MasterCard and Visa cards and enough material to make 80,000 more. American Express cards are more difficult to forge.

Credit card fraud has grown fifteenfold in the past five years and losses worldwide amount to about \$1 billion. The New York gangs, which had been operating independently, were responsible for half the losses.

The fake credit cards were sold in batches to distributors who then sold them to individuals for between \$70 and \$200 apiece. The cards were used to get cash from banks, as well as goods, before being discarded.

Mr Giuliani said credit card holders could help to prevent fraud by destroying the carbons on charge forms.

Aslef seeks talks over BR's court threat

By Rupert Morris

The train-drivers' union, Aslef, belied its militant reputation yesterday by seeking a meeting with British Rail to discuss the board's threat of court action, while simultaneously setting in train its first-ever ballot on industrial action.

The union's apparent acceptance of the forces of the Trade Union Act 1984, which specifies that unions calling industrial action without holding a ballot lose immunity from civil action, will be welcomed by the Government.

British Rail gave the two main rail unions until midnight tonight (Fri) to pay £200,000 compensation for losses resulting from a one-day strike called on January 17 in South Yorkshire and the East Midlands over coal movements during the miners' strike.

Yesterday the board confirmed that it had received letters from both Mr Ray Buckton, Aslef general secretary, and Mr Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, asking for a meeting. It is expected to take place today.

Aslef's leaders have invited Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, to their training centre in what will be seen as a deliberate insult to the leaders of the year-long miners' strike. (Barrie Cleverton, Labour Reporter, writes).

Mr Walker's visit next Monday comes after a ceremony in April at which Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State and Industry and architect of recent labour laws, officially opened an extension at the technical school.

The new invitation will infuriate the left in the labour movement.

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French offer cheap electricity to UK

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

France is prepared to sell Britain the equivalent of the entire output from two of its nuclear power stations at a price that cannot be matched by even the most efficient of Britain's big coal-fired stations "once the social and political problems are overcome", the head of the French state-power authority said yesterday.

Discussions on the issue will begin in November, when the first phase of the 2,000-megawatt cross-Channel power link between Calais and the Kent coast comes operational.

The French offer, which will be opposed by the electricity industry's union and by many sectors of the industry's management will, however, give the British power authorities a bargaining lever in discussions on the level of coal purchasing, the size of coal stocks and the issue of whether the industry or the Government should bear the cost of any high stocks to combat any further disruption in the coal industry.

Marcel Boiteux, president of Electricite de France, who is attending the conference of International Union of Electricity Producers and Distributors, said in Athens yesterday that, while the cross-Channel link is primarily for an exchange of power to meet surges in demand in Britain and France, the French industry is in a position to offer cheap base-load power to Britain.

The cross-Channel link has a capacity equal to two of the French chain of 40-nuclear power stations.

The French power authority, provides power at about 1p a unit (while still making a profit of 0.3p) compared with present British costs of 1.97p from the most efficient coal station.

France has begun supplying Jersey with 50 per cent of the island's power needs through a new undersea cable from a power station in Brittany. Mr Richard Wade, head of the island's electricity authority, said that this had led already to a cut of 20 per cent in the island's electricity prices.

Consumers in France are to have their bills cut by 1 per cent each year until 1990 because of the country's nuclear power programme and even bigger cuts will follow if the Government, as expected, cuts the electricity profit requirement from its current 9 per cent to 5 per cent.

The French offer will embarrass the British Government, which is again building up coal stocks at power stations and still has to decide how high the cost of the stocking policy and extra costs of oil burning during the miners' strike is to be met.

NUM in joint fight call

Miners leaders hope to join forces with the pit deputies' union to fight the National Coal Board's programme of pit closures and job losses (Our Labour Correspondent writes).

The National Union of Mineworkers' executive agreed yesterday to meet its opposite number from the National Association of Colliery Over-

Mexico and Britain sign £90m deals

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The British and Mexican governments last night confirmed they had signed agreements for trade and investment worth £90m during the three-day state visit of President Miguel de la Madrid, who leaves today.

Mr Paul Channon, the Minister for Trade, said that the agreements demonstrated British confidence in the stronger Mexican economy

under the present three-year-old administration.

The announcement was also welcomed by Señor Hector Hernandez, the Mexican Commerce Secretary, and Lord Jellicoe, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, who led British businessmen to Mexico recently.

Lord Jellicoe said yesterday that Britain accounted for only 2 per cent of Mexican imports, but noted that President de la Madrid had instructed his

ministers to pursue other deals in the pipeline with urgency.

British companies involved in the agreements include Sinclair Computers and British Rail Engineering, as well as industrial giants like ICI, GKN, Glaxo and Unilever. They cover agriculture and synthetic products, vehicle components, coal washing equipment from Davey McKee, pharmaceutical, food and perfume products, railway coaches, and fibres from Morgan Crucible.

£16m windfall for Church of Scotland

By Jeremy Warner

The Church of Scotland expects to pick up £16 million next week when Christian Salvessen, one of Britain's largest private companies, is floated on the stock market.

The Church, which was left the shareholding in 1933 by Mr Frederick Salvessen, the son of the company's founder. It was the Church's recent decision to sell the 14 million shares and put the proceeds into a broader spread of investments that prompted the £15 million flotation plan.

Some of the 250 shareholder-

ing descendants of the company's founder will also be selling a part of their holdings though the family will remain in overall control of the company after flotation with about 60 per cent of the shares.

In total, 57 million shares are being offered for sale at 115p each, placing a value on the whole company of £315 million and making it one of the largest private sector flotations ever attempted in the City.

About £21.35 million of the offer for sale proceeds will be retained by the Edinburgh

company for internal investment and takeovers.

Christian Salvessen dates from 1872 when an expatriate Norwegian founded it as a whaling company with fleets in the Arctic and Antarctic, and a permanent base on South Georgia.

An attempt to dismantle the whaling station just over three years ago provided the spark for the Falklands conflict.

Since the 1960s, Salvessen has developed into a leading food processing and distribution group handling about a quarter of all the frozen peas sold in Britain and with a range of customers including Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury, Birds Eye, Finns and United Biscuits.

The company, which has more than doubled its profits over the last four years from £15.1 million to £33.4 million, also manages and owns colliers shipping coal from Eastern Scotland to the Central Electricity Generating Board's power stations on the Thames, operates a brickmaking business and is among Britain's top 10 householders.

About 4,000 Salvessen employees will qualify for free shares

Yachts face lights fee

Amateur yachtsmen could soon have to pay towards the upkeep and running costs of Britain's lighthouses, (writes Richard Evans).

An annual charge ranging between £25 and £50 for pleasure craft is suggested in a consultant's report prepared for transport ministers and published yesterday.

Oil tankers, container vessels, general and bulk cargo ships currently pay over 85 per cent of light dues. But the report says the burden should be spread - yachts, Royal Navy ships, foreign warships, sailing ships, fishing boats, tugs, dredgers and hoppers, and large foreign-registered racing yachts should pay a share.

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Tory chiefs order radical overhaul of student group to root out rowdies

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A radical overhaul of the Conservative Party's student organization to root out rowdy and intolerant elements was ordered by party leaders last night.

An inquiry into the 14,000 strong Federation of Conservative Students set up after the vandalism at Loughborough University in April concluded that its stand was "divisive and inimical to large numbers of students with Conservative sympathies".

The committee, headed by Sir Donald Walters, a member of the party's National Union executive committee, said that the main problem with the body was "excessive factionalism compounded by intolerance of what are seen to be minority views."

Party leaders immediately accepted yesterday the committee's recommendation that there should be a comprehensive review of the federation's rules and constitution to bring it under the full party control nationally and in the regions and stopping the federation

from acting as a sovereign body within the party, making policies and putting its gloss on Tory principles.

The rule changes, to be made by a committee of party members, would require the federation to make party area offices responsible for accrediting federation branches and area chairmen responsible for scrutinizing membership and to end the practice of electing federation officers at the national conference, are expected to be passed in November.

Mr John Gummer, party chairman, told a press conference that the federation would in the meantime receive the party funds it required and indicated that these would be increased after the changes. Funding was suspended after the Loughborough incident.

The committee condemned the mess and damage at Loughborough, for which the college authorities submitted a £1,200 bill.

Although some press accounts were exaggerated, "there is independent evidence that the total mess was con-

siderable and brought nothing but discredit to the Conservative Party in the eyes of the university staff who were confronted by it and who refused to clean it up." It was astonishing that those responsible for organizing the party did not clear up the mess until requested.

"As to the conference, there was evidence of partiality on the part of some chairmen, orchestrated responses, an intolerance beyond that expected in the usual cut and thrust of student political debate, and of excessive factionalism leading to acrimonious infighting."

"The latter debases the effectiveness of the FCS, tarnishes the image of the Conservative Party and wastes talent and energy."

Factionalism was even carried into social activities. The committee said that at its best the FCS had proved it could be the most powerful force in student politics.

Mr Gummer said it was a great organization, but it must not be one in which factions ran

Radioactive scare after van is in M4 pile-up

By Robin Young

A van carrying radioactive material was one of six vehicles in a pile-up on the M4 near Reading yesterday.

Scientists from the Harwell Atomic Energy Research Centre went to the scene and the motorway was closed before it was established that spillage on the road was diesel oil and not radioactive chemicals.

Mr Peter Stokes, of Amersham International, which owns the van, said there had been only "a few medicine spoons" of radioactive iodine 125 on board. "The material was in a small phial in a plastic container, sealed in a lead pot, wrapped in a metal container inside a cardboard box," he said. "It was packed to withstand punishment and in fact there was no spillage."

Iodine 125 is used as a tracer for testing blood samples in basic diagnostic kits.

One man was taken to hospital in Reading suffering from shock after the accident. Thames Valley police said there had been no danger to the public.



Princess Anne was joined by the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday at Cambridge after they had carried out separate duties. The Princess attended a Save the Children Fund fete, while the Duke carried out his duties as Chancellor, both at Jesus College.

Husband drops rabies claim

The husband of a woman who died from rabies after being bitten by a dog in India has dropped a High Court action against Gloucester Health Authority in return for a settlement of about £2,500.

Mr Nigel Milliner, aged 29, of Leonard Stanley, Gloucestershire, whose wife, Andrea, died almost four years ago, had claimed that medical staff should have noticed signs of his wife's illness before rabies was diagnosed, two days before her death.

Police describe ticket suspect

Police yesterday issued a description of a man they believe could help with enquiries into Wimbledon ticket forgeries.

The man, grey-haired and in his forties, has been described to detectives by ticket agents. So far, ten forgeries have been discovered by agents, some of whom have paid £150 each for them. Several hundred may be in circulation.

Power failure

Thousands of homes were plunged into darkness when a power cut hit the south-east of England yesterday.

An explosion which killed the bird, blacked out much of Hemel Hempstead and Kings Langley for 40 minutes.



Mrs Wendy Savage, determined to win.

Computer firms poised for China sales drive

Britain's high technology companies are poised to launch a sales drive to China and the east, after the relaxation of restrictions on the export of computers and related equipment.

New guidelines allow computers with slow processing speeds to be exported, although exports of computers which can be used as part of a network or in the manufacture of microchips and other computers are liable to be restricted.

The details were announced by Mr Paul Channon, Minister for Trade, yesterday. The new rules have been drawn up by Cocom (the coordinating committee for multilateral export controls) which comprises the Nato countries apart from Spain and Iceland, and also includes Japan.

The controls are meant to restrict the export to China or to the Warsaw Pact countries of equipment that could be used for military purposes.

The new rules, the first published for five years, are intended to take account of technological changes since

Racism is worsening, report says

By Pat Healy, Race Relations Correspondent

Increasingly hostile barracking of black footballers and minimal coverage of Britain's black Olympic talent were cited yesterday as signs of increasing racism by the Commission for Racial Equality in its annual report.

Mr Peter Newsam, the chairman of the commission, said that barracking of black footballers had spread from London to Scotland and was being done by people who seemed to be looking for scapegoats for their own anger and guilt.

Such open racism has offset some of its gains since the first Race Relations Act was passed 20 years ago, he said. Progress was painfully slow, and black people remained substantially disadvantaged.

The commission will propose changes to the law within the next month. A key proposal will be to restore its power to investigate

public hearing Mr Justice Popplewell said that his investigations into the death of a boy aged 15 when a wall collapsed, after crowd disturbances at a match in Birmingham on the same day as the Bradford fire, would not take the form of a public inquiry.

He said that he would be visiting Birmingham during the first week of next month to talk to the police and other authorities involved.

He is expected to deliver his interim report on the fire disaster to the Home Secretary within a few weeks.

The Bradford disaster has led to a change in the Local Government Bill, which abolishes the Greater London Council and the seven metropolitan councils.

Derby County football club has been told by Derbyshire County Council to remove 2,000 seats at the Baseball Ground, to increase gateway space in the interest of fire safety.

FA appeal to Fifa, page 25

Parliament, page 4

At the end of yesterday's

Head teachers want more helpers for midday supervision

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Head teachers who want to keep their schools open at lunchtime should do so only if they can obtain more ancillary staff from the local authority, the National Association of Head Teachers advised yesterday.

In guidance to its 20,800 members the association details a three-pronged campaign designed to remove the burden of midday supervision from heads. It entails an information campaign, action by heads to secure more ancillaries and branch meetings with ballots on such issues as whether to close schools at midday.

The advice, a direct result of a decision at last month's annual conference at Scarborough, comes at a time when head teachers are having to supervise children at lunchtime either alone or with very little help.

The situation has been made a great deal worse by the teachers' pay dispute, because the two biggest unions have withdrawn from midday supervision.

The association says that heads should keep schools open only if the ratios of ancillary staff to pupils are altered to one to 20 for infants and juniors and one to 30 for secondary pupils.

At present the ratios are one to 30 for infants, one to 75 for juniors and one to 200 for secondary pupils.

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the association, said: "Local education authorities will have to understand that an adequate system at midday will cost money. If the ratio of one to 20 is good enough for school journeys then it is good enough for supervision at midday."

Head teachers are being advised that the school be closed or pupil numbers restricted if there is inadequate qualified supervision, and this is particularly the case where heads have sole responsibility with no qualified teacher support.

They are also advised that branch meetings should be held and balloting take place where there is support for action.

Options for action will undoubtedly include closure of schools at midday, substantial reductions in pupil numbers on the premises at midday and withdrawal of heads from midday supervision.

Mr Hart said that the purpose of the campaign was not only to relieve the pressure on heads but also to bring home to local authorities that they were as responsible as teachers for the present crisis.

Branch secretaries are asked to have meetings with chief education officers and chairmen of education committees to tell them about the stress faced by heads. MPs and councillors will also be contacted.

MPs debate science cash cuts

By Pearce Wright

The effect of budget cuts on scientific research laboratories will be debated in the House of Commons today as a preliminary to the debate, the Government decided to publish yesterday the recommendations of its main advisory group of expenditure on civil basic research.

The report, from the Advisory Council for the Research Councils, calls for an additional £15 million for civil science in 1986-87, rising to £40 million more for 1988-89.

The request is coupled with a bid by the University Grants Committee for £45 million more over three years.

In a letter accompanying the report, Sir David Phillips, chairman of the board, says the UK must be more selective about the fields in which it seeks to keep up with international competition. But it is unrealistic to think of withdrawal from some areas.

A Cabinet committee chaired by Lord Young and including Mr David Tippler, the minister for small business, is investigating deregulation measures. The deregulation package could take the form of a White Paper

VAT rules may be eased to help jobs

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

A simplification of the value-added tax system combined with raising the tax's threshold to £50,000 is being considered by ministers as the latest step to help small firms expand and create employment.

Other plans to cut red tape include easing planning regulations, and it is hoped that up to 250,000 new jobs could ensue.

Most of those are expected to flow from relaxation of planning laws, but ministers are increasingly worried by the detrimental effect that complex and numerous VAT forms have on small businesses.

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Black group campaign 'repellent'

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, last night condemned the party's black sections campaign as "repellent and segregationist" in a scathing condemnation of its "bankrupt leadership" (Anthony Bevins writes).

He told a meeting of Westminster journalists that he planned a more effective response to the identifiable needs of the ethnic minority community members and to make the Labour Party "more inviting" to their participation at all levels.

He said that black sections would not help. "I consider, and so do most other people, that the idea of a segregated section on the basis of colour or racial origin to be repellent."

Mr Kinnock said that the suggested definition of membership for the section had been people of Afro-Caribbean or Asian origin, or those who considered themselves to be black.

Check on Commons journalists urged

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

An all-party committee of MPs has recommended that journalists, researchers and some other outsiders who work full-time at the House of Commons should be required to register their commercial interests to prevent any abuse of their privileged access both to MPs and to parliamentary papers.

Of parliamentary lobby journalists, who number about 150, and of an equal number of other reporters in the parliamentary Press gallery, the Select Committee on Members' Interests reported yesterday: "They have privileged access... on the assumption that they use it solely for their work as journalists."

"There is clearly scope for abuse should any journalist use this access for other purposes."

The committee members say that they have received allegations that such abuse has occurred, which it is not their function to investigate. They observe that the lobby journalists' own code of conduct does not forbid use of Parliament's facilities for purposes other than journalism.

The committee says that it respects the integrity of parliamentary reporters, but recommends that those holding permanent passes, as journalists or for parliamentary broadcasting, be required to register "not only the employment for which they have received their passes, but also any other paid occupation or

employment where their privileged access to Parliament is relevant."

The committee makes a similar recommendation for the 562 secretaries of MPs and their 200 research assistants who hold permanent passes, saying they should be required to register "any gainful occupation which they may pursue other than that for which the pass is issued."

It examined professional parliamentary lobbyists whose activities, it said, had substantially increased in recent years. But it rejects proposals for a formal register of lobbyists. It found that access to Parliament's precincts had become more and more sought after. There was evidence that it was sometimes obtained for one purpose and then used for another. Some aspects of the increasing professional lobbying occasioned concern.

"A member who is approached on any matter should... be able to ascertain the true nature of the approach and the standing of the person making it."

But the committee concludes that a register would raise "formidable" problems of definition and enforcement, and probably fail in its purpose, which would be "to identify those persons and companies lobbying for financial reward, and those for whom they acted."

Press Council deplores GLC blacking of paper

Discrimination by the Greater London Council against a newspaper group, some of whose staff were on strike, was deplorable, the Press Council said today.

He upheld a complaint by the Croydon Advertiser group that the GLC had discriminated against it by withholding information and assistance given to others.

Mr G C Collard, executive editor of the group, complained to the council that the group had been "blackied" by the GLC from receiving news information and advertising. Croydon members of the National Union of Journalists were on strike in support of colleagues at Portsmouth. There was no dispute at Croydon and more than half the staff was working.

The Press Council's adjudication was: The Press Council repeats its view that public bodies who have direct or indirect control of the dissemination of news, which the public has a right to know, have a responsibility to the public as a whole.

There are not justified in discriminating between competing groups or against particular newspapers when such discrimination is calculated to impede the free flow of information.

Because of a strike of NUJ members on the Croydon Advertiser in support of their colleagues at Portsmouth, the GLC director of public relations, after consultation with the union, decided to cease dealing with the Croydon Advertiser beyond allowing it the minimum information and facilities laid down by law.

He said that his decision was taken because of the risk that the GLC press office's relations with other newspapers in London might be jeopardized if it continued to deal normally with the Croydon Advertiser.

The Press Council finds the action taken by the Greater London Council a serious and deplorable example of a public body failing to discharge its responsibility to the public as a whole by impeding the free flow of information about its affairs.

The complaint against the Greater London Council is upheld.

'Muddle' blamed for Bradford fire

From Peter Davenport, Bradford

The Bradford City grandstand fire which killed 56 people could have been prevented and the public were lured each other into a false sense of security.

Mr Glasgow said that the club now believed that public safety must be put before concepts of containment of crowds and that a means of immediate escape had to be ensured.

The inquiry, which lasted seven days, heard from 77 witnesses. It was told of individual acts of outstanding bravery on the day of the disaster, but also of a history of confusion, misunderstandings and lack of liaison among the authorities engaged in public safety in the years before the disaster occurred.

It was told that a Health and Safety Executive official visited the ground as long ago as 1980, noticed the accumulation of rubbish beneath the seats in the wooden grandstand and wrote to the club pointing out the risks, in line with a warning

enthusiasm and those with the enthusiasm may have lacked the expertise."

He said that the club and the fire brigade because he did not regard fire prevention as the job of his authority.

The fire brigade did not make any inspections of the ground because it had not statutory powers to do so and was not invited in. West Yorkshire County Council did not follow up a letter to the club containing a warning about the litter, among other points regarding ground improvement.

Lawyers representing the authorities defended the actions of their officials.

The inquiry was also told that the club believed that the green code was intended only for clubs designated under the Safety of Sports Ground Act 1975.

Mr Keith Goddard, for the county council, suggested that clubs be required to obtain certificates from the council, not less than five hours before a match, that stadiums are free from litter and other defects.

At the end of yesterday's

contained in the Government's "green code guide" to football clubs on ground safety.

But the official did not notify the fire brigade because he did not regard fire prevention as the job of his authority.

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Hustings get under way at Brecon

Campaigning in the Brecon and Radnor by-election opened its earnest yesterday with the Conservative candidate accusing Labour of spreading false rumours about an alleged secret opinion poll which, it claimed, had already put the Tories behind.

Mr Chris Butler, aged 34, claimed the poll was a total fabrication and "a silly hoax". "We have no reason to keep any figures quiet because the simple fact is there is no such poll," he added.

Labour's candidate Mr Richard Willey, 40, a Radnor district councillor and local party chairman, had challenged the Tories to publish the results of an independent survey conducted for them which, according to Labour party workers, put Mr Butler behind Labour with the Liberals in third place.

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Spain	£1.20	Sweden	£1.20
Switzerland	£1.20	USA	£1.20

Beckford family's excuses before child's death were plausible, inquiry told

By Tony Samstag

The social worker at the centre of the Jasmine Beckford case said yesterday that she had "no reason to disbelieve" the child's parents when they gave a number of excuses for her not being able to see Jasmine during the last months of her life.

Miss Guon Wahlstrom told the independent inquiry into the child's death that she had been established with her mother and stepfather after initial hostility when the child and her younger sister, Louise, and her younger brother, David, were first taken into care in August 1981.

Jasmine Beckford died last July, two years after being taken from her foster parents and returned to her family by Brent Council in North London.

Maurice Beckford, aged 25, her stepfather, was jailed for 10 years last March for her manslaughter, and Beverly Lorrington, aged 25, her mother, was jailed for 18 months, also last March, for neglect.

During the last 10 months of the child's life, Miss Wahlstrom

had managed to see her only once, in spite of repeated attempts.

The inquiry, in its seventh week, was told that Miss Wahlstrom, from Sweden, who has lived and worked in Brent since 1974, had been obliged in 1983 to help recruit staff and supervise the cases of a student and a newly qualified social worker because her area had only two senior social workers instead of the usual four.

She also conducted research into families with handicapped children and helped to found a play scheme and family support group, the inquiry was told.

Miss Wahlstrom said it had been "not impossible but very difficult" to carry on the ordinary case loads of between 20 and 32 cases in those circumstances.

During her training in London, she had had only a few short instruction sessions on child abuse, although she had conducted several cases of child abuse during three years as a resident worker in children's homes before becoming a field worker for Brent in 1977.

The Beckford family was her first child abuse case as a field worker.

Her impression of Beckford and Lorrington was that they were not unintelligent and that their relationship with her had "developed very well".

She denied earlier testimony that she had been frightened of Beckford, because her experience with disturbed adolescents had accustomed her to boys of similar background "presenting themselves in an aggressive manner".

Her initial view of the children's future had been pessimistic because of the severity of their injuries and the backgrounds of their parents.

Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, chairman of the inquiry, told the crowded room at Brent town hall that the panel was conscious that Miss Wahlstrom had endured "a distressing situation" since the child's death.

The hearing continues today.

Civil defence proposals inadequate, doctors say

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

The Government's plans for civil defence, released last week, are inadequate for nuclear warfare, the Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons said yesterday.

Dr Peter Sims, a family doctor, who is chairman of the campaign's working group on civil defence, said that a Department of Health and Social Security circular failed to meet the criticism of the British Medical Association that even a one-megaton nuclear bomb would overwhelm the National Health Service.

The circular failed to explain, he said, how the centralized health services needed in conventional war could quickly change to the dispersed community services required in a nuclear war.

"Any nuclear attack would render most hospitals useless, the loss of power, transport, water and communications. The reluctance of the DHSS to take those different requirements seriously only reinforced the view of many doctors that the issue was fudged because there were no plans for a nuclear scenario," Dr Sims said.

"Instead they concentrate on bureaucratic changes which no health administrator would be able to carry out after a nuclear attack. No one is likely to be concerned with health authority hierarchies when people are dead, burned, dying and traumatized."



Identical twins among athletes at the launch yesterday of a £250,000 investment by Minolta Copiers, the Japanese company, in British sport (from top): Grenville and Graham Tack; Marina and Shireen Samy; and Jo Jo and Katherine Tulloh (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Schooner 'packed with smuggled cannabis'

By Michael Horsnell

The 65-ft schooner Robert Gordon was stuffed to the gunwales with cannabis resin when she moored in the river Crouch last October, Chelmsford Crown Court was told yesterday.

The vessel sailed up the Essex river to smuggle ashore 4.3 tonnes of cannabis valued at £10 million, Mr Anthony Arlidge, QC, for the prosecution said.

But the gang who started to unload the drug in plastic bags were stopped by police, tipped off by customs officers.

Four men deny being knowingly concerned in smuggling 4,392 kilograms of cannabis into Britain. They are Geoffrey King, aged 41, a builder from Harlow, Essex; Terence Guy, aged 46, a company director from Romford, Essex; David Crighton, aged 22, a deckhand from Corby, Northamptonshire; and John Bridger, aged 37, from Chesham, Hertfordshire.

Keith Jones, aged 37, captain of the Robert Gordon, admits the smuggling charge, but denies possessing firearms. The hearing continues today.

Consultants 'should retire earlier'

Hospital consultants should retire earlier and it should be possible to redeploy them and review their job descriptions, the National Association of Health Authorities said yesterday (Nicholas Timmins writes).

Two grades of fully-trained hospital doctors should be introduced with one set of consultants answerable to senior specialists and steps should be taken to ensure that junior doctors spend less time in training grades.

The present medical career structure is creating serious problems hampering health authorities' ability to deliver services properly, and needs a "fundamental review" the NHAHA says in a report on medical manpower.

Numbers of doctors in the most senior training grades have no prospect of becoming consultants because consultant numbers are not expanding fast enough, it says.

At the same time "a high proportion of patient care is being provided by doctors who are ostensibly in training but who, in practice, are being used as 'pairs of hands' to keep the system working."

Witness gives 3 reasons for delay in horse sale

A bloodstock expert told the High Court yesterday why he thought the auctioneers, Tattersalls, had behaved "sensitively" in not offering the yearling colt, Sulafah, for immediate resale after a disputed bid.

Colonel Robin Hastings was giving evidence on the ninth day of the negligence claim against the auctioneers by the colt's original owners, Alechemy International Ltd.

Sulafah was knocked down for 430,000 guineas at the September 1983 sale, only for the "buyer" to deny making the final bid. The colt was later sold for 200,000 guineas.

Liability is denied. Colonel Hastings told Mr Justice Hirst there were "three sensible reasons" for not immediately reselling Sulafah.

One was the lateness. Second was the fact that the sales ring was rapidly emptying of buyers, Colonel Hastings said.

Finally, although the "buyer", Mr James Flood, had denied making the 430,000 guineas bid, he admitted to bidding 410,000 guineas giving the auctioneer hope that he might accept the colt at the lower price.

The hearing continues on Monday.

Diplomat's case to be studied

By Patricia Clough

The Government is to study the implications of the events surrounding the Syrian diplomat who refused to leave a British family's flat, Downing Street officials said yesterday.

But it was not yet clear whether it would take up a proposal that the Treasury compensate people with claims against envoys covered by diplomatic immunity.

The proposal will be made in a question by Lord St Davids in the House of Lords on June 24. Lord St Davids said that if the Government did not act, he would table a private member's Bill.

He said the Bill would not only help people such as Mr and Mrs John Chaffey, who fought for three years to reclaim their home from Mr Ahmed Rajab, the Syrian diplomat, but also larger numbers of people who become involved in car accidents with diplomats.

The principle would be the same as for compensation paid to people whose interests suffer for a public need.

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Male	Female	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32
15-28	18-32	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	12.4	12.4
30	34	2,128	2,128	2,128	2,128	2,128	2,128	2,128	2,128	2,128	2,128	12.4	12.4
35	39	2,123	2,123	2,123	2,123	2,123	2,123	2,123	2,123	2,123	2,123	12.4	12.4
40	44	2,101	2,101	2,101	2,101	2,101	2,101	2,101	2,101	2,101	2,101	12.4	12.4
45	49	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	12.4	12.4
50	54	2,061	2,061	2,061	2,061	2,061	2,061	2,061	2,061	2,061	2,061	11.8	11.8
55	59	1,912	1,912	1,912	1,912	1,912	1,912	1,912	1,912	1,912	1,912	11.6	11.6
60	64	1,670	1,670	1,670	1,670	1,670	1,670	1,670	1,670	1,670	1,670	11.4	11.4
65	69	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	11.0	11.0
70-79	74-79	1,166	1,166	1,166	1,166	1,166	1,166	1,166	1,166	1,166	1,166	11.0	11.0

FOR A MONTHLY INVESTMENT OF £50		Present Age		Immediate Life Cover		Guaranteed Sum Assured		Guaranteed Sum + Annual Bonuses		Total Projected Maturity Value		Equivalent Net yield %	
Male	Female	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32
15-28	18-32	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	13.0	13.0
30	34	5,489	5,489	5,489	5,489	5,489	5,489	5,489	5,489	5,489	5,489	13.0	13.0
35	39	5,476	5,476	5,476	5,476	5,476	5,476	5,476	5,476	5,476	5,476	12.9	12.9
40	44	5,445	5,445	5,445	5,445	5,445	5,445	5,445	5,445	5,445	5,445	12.8	12.8
45	49	5,388	5,388	5,388	5,388	5,388	5,388	5,388	5,388	5,388	5,388	12.6	12.6
50	54	5,286	5,286	5,286	5,286	5,286	5,286	5,286	5,286	5,286	5,286	12.4	12.4
55	59	4,935	4,935	4,935	4,935	4,935	4,935	4,935	4,935	4,935	4,935	12.2	12.2
60	64	4,315	4,315	4,315	4,315	4,315	4,315	4,315	4,315	4,315	4,315	12.0	12.0
65	69	3,678	3,678	3,678	3,678	3,678	3,678	3,678	3,678	3,678	3,678	11.6	11.6
70-79	74-79	3,014	3,014	3,014	3,014	3,014	3,014	3,014	3,014	3,014	3,014	11.0	11.0

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Male	Female	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32
15-28	18-32	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	£2,128	12.4	12.4
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40	44	2,101	2,101	2,101	2,101	2,101	2,101	2,101	2,101	2,101	2,101	12.4	12.4
45	49	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	2,080	12.4	12.4
50	54	2,061	2,061	2,061	2,061	2,061	2,061	2,061	2,061	2,061	2,061	11.8	11.8
55	59	1,912	1,912	1,912	1,912	1,912	1,912	1,912	1,912	1,912	1,912	11.6	11.6
60	64	1,670	1,670	1,670	1,670	1,670	1,670	1,670	1,670	1,670	1,670	11.4	11.4
65	69	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	1,422	11.0	11.0
70-79	74-79	1,166	1,166	1,166	1,166	1,166	1,166	1,166	1,166	1,166	1,166	11.0	11.0

FOR A MONTHLY INVESTMENT OF £50		Present Age		Immediate Life Cover		Guaranteed Sum Assured		Guaranteed Sum + Annual Bonuses		Total Projected Maturity Value		Equivalent Net yield %	
Male	Female	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32	18-28	18-32
15-28	18-32	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	£5,489	13.0	13.0
30	34	5,489	5,489	5,489	5,489	5,489	5,489	5,489	5,489	5,489	5,489	13.0	13.0
35	39	5,476	5,476	5,476	5,476	5,476	5,476	5,476	5,476	5,476	5,476	12.9	12.9
40	44	5,445	5,445	5,445	5,445	5,445	5,445	5,445	5,445	5,445	5,445	12.8	12.8
45	49	5,388	5,388	5,388	5,388	5,388	5,388	5,388	5,388	5,388	5,388	12.6	12.6
50	54	5,286	5,286	5,286	5,286	5,286	5,286	5,286	5,286	5,286	5,286	12.4	12.4
55	59	4,935	4,935	4,935	4,935	4,935	4,935	4,935	4,935	4,935	4,935	12.2	12.2
60	64	4,315	4,315	4,315	4,315	4,315	4,315	4,315	4,315	4,315	4,315	12.0	12.0
65	69	3,678	3,678	3,678	3,678	3,678	3,678	3,678	3,678	3,678	3,678	11.6	11.6
70-79	74-79	3,014	3,014	3,014	3,014	3,014	3,014	3,014	3,014	3,014	3,014	11.0	11.0

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Serps plan: Ingenious or burglary?

PENSIONS

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, indicated during questions in the Commons that the proposal to end the state earnings-related pension scheme was made in the face of expert advice to the contrary tendered to ministers. The Government did not always have to take the report of a specialist committee on the pensions review so that the whole country could make a judgement on the advice given to the Government.

Renewing his attack on the Green Paper, Mr. Kinnoch asked: Will the prime minister now tell us honestly and plainly are there figures for gains and losses from her social security proposals? Yes or no?

Mrs Thatcher: As I made clear in my letter to Mr. Kinnoch, the purpose of issuing a Green Paper was to set out the main themes and principles of our proposed new strategy for social security. The proper time to produce figures when decisions have been taken on the strategy. We will publish a range of illustrative figures when the White Paper is published in the autumn. At the time when decisions are taken on strategy, then we will provide a range of illustrative figures.

Mr. Kinnoch: Her refusal to give a straight answer to a straight question will be noted by the whole country. It is entirely consistent with the approach she has taken on the whole range of issues.

If she will not answer that question about gains and losses, will she publish the report of the pensions review, whose committee included Mr. Stewart Lyon (immediate past President of the Institute of Actuaries), so the whole country can make a judgement on the advice that was tendered on the matter to the Government.

Mrs Thatcher: Mr. Lyon was an expert adviser. The Government does not always have to take the advice of experts. (Labour laughter) Indeed we should be criticised if we did.

Mr. James Callaghan (Cardiff South and Penarth, Lab): Is the Prime Minister aware that the word "ingenious" is always used of every successful burglar? (loud laughter).

Mrs Thatcher: It is precisely because this Government does not wish to burglar future generations that we are looking at the present scheme as it will be subsequently financed by contributions from this generation rather than keeping the old scheme which would have been a burden on our children and grandchildren.

Mr. David Owen, Leader of the Social Democrats: As a "larceny" now seems to be the right word to describe the Government's proposals in the Green Paper, will Mr. at least admit that Mr. Lyon proposed that Serps should be retained but modified and that its ultimate cost should be reduced?

Will she admit that this option has not been discussed by Mr. Norman Fowler's advisory team? That option ought now to be put before the House with Government figures so we can decide whether or not it is viable.

Mrs Thatcher: I rather thought in the Government's view that the members of his party were supporting the abolition of Serps very vigorously, but then with the Alliance you never in fact know.

The Green Paper made clear that one of the options considered was to restrict Serps rather than phase it out and it explained why the Government concluded that this was not the right option to choose. The reasons are set out in the Green Paper.

Mr. Michael Jopling, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said he shared the Opposition's exasperation at the EEC Council of Agriculture Ministers this week who used their veto against a cut in cereal prices.

However, he was still not without hope that Britain could continue to press for a reduction of 1.8 per cent which would make a reduction of something just short of 5 per cent in two years, during which time the cost of production would have gone up in many countries by perhaps 10 per cent, he said in a Commons statement to the meeting in Luxembourg on June 11 and 12.

In his statement, he said: I regret that the Council has thus failed to take decisions on sensible price arrangements for cereals and rapeseed for next season. This represents a serious setback to the progress which has been made in putting the common agricultural policy onto a more realistic basis. Cereals thought will need to be given by the Agriculture Council and the Commission to the situation which now confronts us.

Mr. Brynmor Jones, Chief Opposition spokesman on Agriculture: There are few in this House who would quarrel with the constitutional point that any country should have the right to veto on a matter of national interest, but I think there is no one who will not marvel at the sheer obstinacy of the German Government.

I hope the lessons of this year will be learnt for the future. If a 1.8 per cent reduction cannot be agreed, what hope is there of the Council being resolute enough to impose real cuts?

Unless agriculture Ministers realise there is a national interest in reducing the subsidy for unwanted cereals, currently running at £1,300 million, there will soon be an outcry as surpluses and subsidies mount and the Council of Ministers will be compelled to do in haste what they are obviously too stupid to do in an orderly way.

Mr. Jopling: Yes, I share his exasperation with the attitude of the German delegation. That clearly did make the rest of us appear to be spineless in view of the fact that the German delegation was prepared to use the veto in order to block a sensible decision.

It would have been a much better signal to grain farmers throughout the Common Market if we could have given them a sign of a proper reduction in prices this year. Last year there was a reduction of what amounted to about 3 per cent.

Mr. Neil Hamilton (Tatton, C): said sensible British proposals for CAP reform were always vetoed by what Britain was pleased to call her Community partners. The German veto meant that any serious prospect of reform could be declared kaput. The only way to get reform was not to propose or support any increase in own resources. (Conservative cheers).

Mr. Jopling said financial disciplines were already biting hard on the CAP.

Mr. David Harris (St. Ives, C): It is credible to continue to rely on the fact that the problem of cereals will be solved through price cuts, given the disastrous decisions of the past few days? Are we being driven to quotas, so that we can look forward to introduction of quotas overnight?

Mr. Jopling: We must do everything to avoid cereal quotas. They would be almost unmanageable and almost impossible to administer. It is not in the interests of any other countries — and most of all ourselves — to have a system of quotas.

I share his pessimism about the result of the decision, but one optimistic note is that the German delegation remain clear it wanted transitional year without price reduction. I hope that it is one year and that we can then move to more realistic policy.

Mr. Nicholas Budgen (Wolverhampton, South-West, C): Once again the budget of the EEC will be seriously overran. If he is not prepared to use the mechanism of own resources, what mechanism will force reform on the CAP?

Mr. Jopling: I have been alone in asking the Commission at almost every point in these negotiations whether they remain satisfied that the cost of the package is within the financial discipline agreed for the budget and I have been assured by him at every stage that it is. I have no reason to believe that that is incorrect.

Mr. Eric Forth (Mid Wiltshire, C): asked that if there was no indication of a restriction of expenditure, the Prime Minister should not ask Parliament for increase of own resources.

Mr. Jopling: It is being achieved already. (Conservative cheers) by the way in which the Commission has refused to go as far as some member states have been pressing them to go because there is no money, under the financial discipline, to pay for the policies they are being requested to follow.

Mr. Jopling: I am looking at the Baker Report's proposals and I will soon, I hope, be able to indicate to the House the way my mind is working. I am sure it would be wrong and a poor reflection on the attitude of Northern Ireland if we were either at this stage to abolish Diplock courts and back go to intimidation of jurors, or we were to pass an extraordinary provision which ruled out uncorroborated accomplice evidence.

Mr. James Moyneaux (Ligan Valley, OUP) asked: In view of the Government's rejection of the principle of joint sovereignty, will the Secretary of State also reject the Dublin proposal for involvement and a role for the Republic itself in Northern Ireland courts?

Mr. Hard: I have noticed a flurry of speculation in the press, including the last story in the *Irish Times* today. It is difficult to comment in the House or in public on a discussion between Governments which is going on all the time and is confidential but he is too shrewd a hand to allow himself to be carried away too much by that kind of speculation.

They and their company, Trust House Forte, had signed Associated Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Mail*, and two journalists Nigel Dempster and Colin Mackenzie, over the article, published in February 1982.

It referred to the departure of Mr. Willy Bauer, the manager of their Grosvenor House hotel, to the rival Savoy Hotel, and implied that they were rude and offensive to him, their counsel Mr. Charles Gray QC, said. He told Mr. Justice Pann that it caused them "distress and irritation".

Mr. David Eady, QC, for the newspaper, said that it had been intended to suggest that Lord Forte or his son had acted other than perfectly properly.

Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr. Justice Macpherson held that police officers who stopped cars to see if drivers were over the alcohol limit were acting in the execution of their duty. Mr. Justice Macpherson said:

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Mr. Michael Jopling, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said he shared the Opposition's exasperation at the EEC Council of Agriculture Ministers this week who used their veto against a cut in cereal prices.

However, he was still not without hope that Britain could continue to press for a reduction of 1.8 per cent which would make a reduction of something just short of 5 per cent in two years, during which time the cost of production would have gone up in many countries by perhaps 10 per cent, he said in a Commons statement to the meeting in Luxembourg on June 11 and 12.

In his statement, he said: I regret that the Council has thus failed to take decisions on sensible price arrangements for cereals and rapeseed for next season. This represents a serious setback to the progress which has been made in putting the common agricultural policy onto a more realistic basis. Cereals thought will need to be given by the Agriculture Council and the Commission to the situation which now confronts us.

Mr. Brynmor Jones, Chief Opposition spokesman on Agriculture: There are few in this House who would quarrel with the constitutional point that any country should have the right to veto on a matter of national interest, but I think there is no one who will not marvel at the sheer obstinacy of the German Government.

I hope the lessons of this year will be learnt for the future. If a 1.8 per cent reduction cannot be agreed, what hope is there of the Council being resolute enough to impose real cuts?

Unless agriculture Ministers realise there is a national interest in reducing the subsidy for unwanted cereals, currently running at £1,300 million, there will soon be an outcry as surpluses and subsidies mount and the Council of Ministers will be compelled to do in haste what they are obviously too stupid to do in an orderly way.

Mr. Jopling: Yes, I share his exasperation with the attitude of the German delegation. That clearly did make the rest of us appear to be spineless in view of the fact that the German delegation was prepared to use the veto in order to block a sensible decision.

It would have been a much better signal to grain farmers throughout the Common Market if we could have given them a sign of a proper reduction in prices this year. Last year there was a reduction of what amounted to about 3 per cent.

Mr. Neil Hamilton (Tatton, C): said sensible British proposals for CAP reform were always vetoed by what Britain was pleased to call her Community partners. The German veto meant that any serious prospect of reform could be declared kaput. The only way to get reform was not to propose or support any increase in own resources. (Conservative cheers).

Mr. Jopling said financial disciplines were already biting hard on the CAP.

Mr. David Harris (St. Ives, C): It is credible to continue to rely on the fact that the problem of cereals will be solved through price cuts, given the disastrous decisions of the past few days? Are we being driven to quotas, so that we can look forward to introduction of quotas overnight?

Mr. Jopling: We must do everything to avoid cereal quotas. They would be almost unmanageable and almost impossible to administer. It is not in the interests of any other countries — and most of all ourselves — to have a system of quotas.

I share his pessimism about the result of the decision, but one optimistic note is that the German delegation remain clear it wanted transitional year without price reduction. I hope that it is one year and that we can then move to more realistic policy.

Mr. Nicholas Budgen (Wolverhampton, South-West, C): Once again the budget of the EEC will be seriously overran. If he is not prepared to use the mechanism of own resources, what mechanism will force reform on the CAP?

Mr. Jopling: I have been alone in asking the Commission at almost every point in these negotiations whether they remain satisfied that the cost of the package is within the financial discipline agreed for the budget and I have been assured by him at every stage that it is. I have no reason to believe that that is incorrect.

Mr. Eric Forth (Mid Wiltshire, C): asked that if there was no indication of a restriction of expenditure, the Prime Minister should not ask Parliament for increase of own resources.

Mr. Jopling: It is being achieved already. (Conservative cheers) by the way in which the Commission has refused to go as far as some member states have been pressing them to go because there is no money, under the financial discipline, to pay for the policies they are being requested to follow.

Mr. Jopling: I am looking at the Baker Report's proposals and I will soon, I hope, be able to indicate to the House the way my mind is working. I am sure it would be wrong and a poor reflection on the attitude of Northern Ireland if we were either at this stage to abolish Diplock courts and back go to intimidation of jurors, or we were to pass an extraordinary provision which ruled out uncorroborated accomplice evidence.

Mr. James Moyneaux (Ligan Valley, OUP) asked: In view of the Government's rejection of the principle of joint sovereignty, will the Secretary of State also reject the Dublin proposal for involvement and a role for the Republic itself in Northern Ireland courts?

Mr. Hard: I have noticed a flurry of speculation in the press, including the last story in the *Irish Times* today. It is difficult to comment in the House or in public on a discussion between Governments which is going on all the time and is confidential but he is too shrewd a hand to allow himself to be carried away too much by that kind of speculation.

They and their company, Trust House Forte, had signed Associated Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Mail*, and two journalists Nigel Dempster and Colin Mackenzie, over the article, published in February 1982.

It referred to the departure of Mr. Willy Bauer, the manager of their Grosvenor House hotel, to the rival Savoy Hotel, and implied that they were rude and offensive to him, their counsel Mr. Charles Gray QC, said. He told Mr. Justice Pann that it caused them "distress and irritation".

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Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

A stage has been reached in the dialogue between the British and Irish Governments over Northern Ireland where the principal purpose of seeking an agreement is to avoid having to acknowledge disagreement. What began last November as an ambitious attempt to find a new political settlement has become essentially an exercise in damage limitation.

That was evident even before the report in *The Irish Times* yesterday that the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland, Lord Lowry, and other Northern Irish High Court judges might be prepared to resign over the proposal for mixed courts in both north and south to deal with terrorist offences.

It would be hard to proceed against such opposition with a scheme to have a southern judge sitting as a minority member on northern benches, and a northern judge sitting as a minority member on southern benches. But that is Northern Ireland's only obstacle to an understanding between the two governments.

There is disagreement over the proposed intergovernmental body that would be supposed to secure closer Anglo-Irish co-operation over the administration of the north. The republic could like something that approached as nearly as possible to joint authority, while the British Government could not agree to anything beyond consultation.

Control of the police presents another problem. There is also still deadlock between the political parties of Northern Ireland over their terms for participating in the assembly, and therefore no prospect of securing the return of the SDLP.

Above all, there is the familiar difficulty that the political constraints on Dr. Garret FitzGerald appear to be such as to make it impossible for him to agree to anything of real substance that would be acceptable to the Protestant community in the north. It is the old dilemma that has prevented progress down the years. There is simply no common ground between the Catholic and Protestant communities: whatever one is prepared to swallow would outrage the other.

The one intriguing new development is that, Mr. John Hume, the SDLP leader, has been putting into circulation the idea of proportional representation for elections to Westminster in Northern Ireland. This implies that the interests of the Catholic community in the province might be safeguarded not only through the good offices of Dublin — which is the assumption on which the present Anglo-Irish dialogue is based — but also through increased Catholic representation in the House of Commons.

Thin end of the wedge

If this course were followed, it would be logical to deal with Northern Irish legislation at Westminster on the same basis as legislation — a move towards the United Kingdom that would be pleasing to Unionists. It is tempting to see here the makings of a new constitutional bargain.

Tempting, but misleading. Mrs Thatcher would regard proportional representation for where in the United Kingdom as the thin end of the wedge. The idea would be scarcely more acceptable to Labour for the same reason.

Both parties would be likely to see it as an example of precisely what they are determined to avoid: the government of Britain being disrupted for the sake of Northern Ireland. For all the intellectual fascination of the concept, I do not believe it is a political starter at the present time.

Yet if agreement in the Anglo-Irish dialogue has its difficulties, disagreement holds its terrors. One only has to think of what a mess Mrs Thatcher made of the press conference after she and Dr. FitzGerald last November well at Chequers last November. What would happen after talks has broken down?

That would strengthen extremists in both parts of Ireland, undermine Dr. FitzGerald at home, make it harder to have effective co-operation on security and embarras Britain abroad. Even a modest agreement would be better for both governments than no agreement at all. But we may have to wait until the autumn to know whether even that is possible.

Why talks with Sinn Fein are ruled out

ULSTER

If British ministers agreed to meet representatives of Sinn Fein, it would not turn the IRA into decent law-abiding citizens, Mr. Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during question time in the Commons.

We should use every means within the law (he said) to distinguish between those in Northern Ireland who believe in and practice constitutional means and those who connive at violence.

He was replying to Ms Clara Shortall (Birmingham, Ladywood, Lab) who had asked what were the security implications of an article in *The Economist* which had suggested that the Government was wrong to refuse to meet the elected representatives of Sinn Fein, and that it was a better democratic principle to meet all elected bodies than for the Government to pick and choose which representatives it meets.

Mr. Hurd said his policy was clearly different from that of Ms Shortall, but not from that of the Labour spokesman who had taken a plane to London before an embarrassing meeting had taken place.

Mr. Harvey Proctor (Billerica, C): Will Mr. Hurd regret the reluctance of Mr. Wren (Police Commissioner, to meet and co-operate with Sir John Herman, RUC Chief Constable? Such co-operation is in the best interests of both police forces to ensure that terrorism is eliminated as speedily as possible.

Mr. Hurd: It is not for me to analyse Mr. Wren's position, but there is close co-operation and many lives have been saved as a result. That needs to be secured by regular meetings at senior level between the two forces. The chiefs of the two police forces should meet from time to time.

The Rev. Ian Paisley (North Antrim, DUP) asked for comment on remarks made by Mr. Alan Wright at the annual meeting of the Police representative body of Northern Ireland, that financial cuts were hindering the RUC in its campaign against terrorism, together with the deplorable state of many border police stations.

Mr. Hurd: There have been no financial cutbacks. The RUC disposes of greater financial resources than ever before. A sum of £20 million has been designated for buildings for each of the next three years and that will match the needs created by the massive expansion of the RUC in the last three years.

Mr. Colin Moynihan (Lewisham, East, C) asked what was the present practice on marches and parades. Mr. Hurd: I have not yet lived through a marching and parading season. I am uneasy about the present situation. Police officers on marches and parades on the present scale puts a heavy burden on the police and could in some cases, not all, provoke sectarian conflict.

Those who want the police to concentrate on saving lives and protecting the community should consider whether the parades organized are burdens on the RUC. The Rev. Robert McCrea (Mid Ulster, DUP): There was a serious statement by the IRA's new chairman and Omagh councillor who claimed that ordinary workers of the council who are part-time members of the security forces, that the IRA's targets are legitimate targets, he would be happy to abide by that. What action is the Government going to take about their case?

Mr. Hurd: Anyone in Northern Ireland who is a colourist or an extremist is under the law and the remarks made will be examined by the police and prosecuting counsel in exactly the same way as anybody else's. People who want the law to be applied to all are welcome to make their views known to the public.

Mr. Harold McCusker (Upper Bann, OUP): There has been the murder of three councillors in Armagh, there have been murders of members of the House and a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly, that measures have been taken to protect other councillors in the province or council officers, as well as workers employed by councils?

Mr. Hurd: The level of present provocation which is accorded to personalities in the province who may be under threat is obviously something the RUC looks at from time to time, sometimes adding or subtracting protection in assessing the actual threat. I hope Mr. McCusker will agree that this is the only sensible way to proceed.

Sir John Farr (Harborough, C): The two chief police officers have not met for over two years and however good co-operation has been, it would have been much better if they met more frequently.

Mr. Hurd: It is true that co-operation is particularly strong on the ground in the border areas but it would be reinforcing that if there were more regular contact and co-operation between senior levels of the police force. It should become a matter of course, without any particular need for publicity or notice, that the two leaders should occasionally meet.

Mr. Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland: The return to London of myself and my colleagues for an evening engagement was made before the new order of the day was announced to meet the group.

However strongly Mr. Hurd may dissent with their views, it is the basis of democratic and constitutional politics to listen to people with whom we disagree. How can he justify refusing to talk to elected representatives about health and street cleaning matters? It shows the Government are more interested in discord than understanding.

Mr. Hurd: I am sorry to hear Mr. Archer's explanation because it means I fear, that he associates himself with those in the Labour Party who believe it is right to meet Sinn Fein.

I would simply repeat what I said in my letter to Mr. Archer: Listen to people you disagree with.

believe to be the right attitude for persons in positions of responsibility and that is to distinguish to the maximum extent permitted by law between those whether we like them or not who practice constitutional means of arguing their objectives and those who connive at violence.

New armoured repair and recovery vehicle for Challenger tanks

DEFENCE

The Government intends to place a contract with Vickers' Defence Systems for the development and initial production of a new armoured repair and recovery vehicle for Challenger tanks.

The contract was announced by Mr. Adam Butler, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, opening the second day of the defence debate in the Commons. Describing the contract as the result of another successful cost-cutting competition, he said the new vehicle was an important force-multiplier and would have a vital role in keeping tanks in the front line.

Mr. Butler said the contract had been won by Vickers after a competition which has resulted in a saving on the initial budgetary estimate for the project of almost 20 per cent.

The contract would include production of the first batch of some 30 vehicles. Once development was complete it was intended to meet the bulk of the Army's requirement for ARRV for a further competition.

Before the House was a Government motion that the 1985 defence estimates and White Paper be approved, and an opposition amendment calling for the removal of all nuclear bases from the United Kingdom.

Mr. Butler said that to achieve the best value for money, the procurement policy had to be operating in as commercial a manner as possible.

The latest results showed that proportion by value of new contracts placed as a result of competition or otherwise by reference to market forces was

running at over 50 per cent, while the properties of those placed on a cost plus basis was only 7 per cent of the total. Over the total value of work placed last year as a result of competition rose by some four to five percentage points.

The estimated cost saving on the RAP train of about 25 per cent was by any standards striking.

Tenders for the third and fourth T23 frigates would be invited at the same time late this summer on a competitive basis from the frigate shipyard at Harland and Wolff.

Sports ground safety job for councils

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

In the shadow of the tragic fire at the Bradford City football ground it was essential to ensure the fire authorities were involved in the consideration of the issue of safety certificates to sports grounds, Lord Gersworth, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said.

He was speaking at the second day of the report stage of the Local Government Bill in the House of Lords.

This omission, he said, had been revealed by an Opposition amendment and led to the Government's own amendment which would make certain there could not be even the slightest doubt that consultations would take place.

Transfer of Safety of Sports Grounds Act functions to the fire authorities as suggested in the amendment was not the best solution because the range of hazards involved was wider than, including crowd safety and control. The fire authorities would be well equipped to deal with aspects of fire safety, but not necessarily with the many other considerations involved in the issuing of safety certificates.

Lord Gersworth said he was satisfied the proposed arrangements would meet the fears and apprehensions of the public.

The Opposition amendment was withdrawn and the Government amendment was agreed to.

Earlier the Government had a majority of 18 when there was a division on a proposal to transfer trading standards functions to the fire and civil defence authorities established by the Bill. The reform clause was rejected by 146 votes to 128.

Lord Elton, Minister of State for the Environment, said this was not a Bill to change functions, but a vehicle to change the discharge of existing functions. The trading standards functions would still be law have to be discharged by whomsoever the duty rested upon.

Lord Mordue (C), moving the amendment, said the work needed to be coordinated at as high a level as practical in local government to ensure consistency in interpretation of regulations.

follow complaints by Sir Kenneth Newman, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, in his annual report, that in trying to operate within cash limits the police would be less able to meet all their commitments.

Mr. James Callaghan (Cardiff South and Penarth, Lab): Is the Prime Minister aware that the word "ingenious" is always used of every successful burglar? (loud laughter).

Mrs Thatcher: It is precisely because this Government does not wish to burglar future generations that we are looking at the present scheme as it will be subsequently financed by contributions from this generation rather than keeping the old scheme which would have been a burden on our children and grandchildren.

Mr. David Owen, Leader of the Social Democrats: As a "larceny" now seems to be the right word to describe the Government's proposals in the Green Paper, will Mr. at least admit that Mr. Lyon proposed that Serps should be retained but modified and that its ultimate cost should be reduced?

Will she admit that this option has not been discussed by Mr. Norman Fowler's advisory team? That option ought now to be put before the House with Government figures so we can decide whether or not it is viable.

Mrs Thatcher: I rather thought in the Government's view that the members of his party were supporting the abolition of Serps very vigorously, but then with the Alliance you never in fact know.

The Green Paper made clear that one of the options considered was to restrict Serps rather than phase it out and it explained why the Government concluded that this was not the right option to choose. The reasons are set out in the Green Paper.

Mr. Michael Jopling, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said he shared the Opposition's exasperation at the EEC Council of Agriculture Ministers this week who used their veto against a cut in cereal prices.

However, he was still not without hope that Britain could continue to press for a reduction of 1.8 per cent which would make a reduction of something just short of 5 per cent in two years, during which time the cost of production would have gone up in many countries by perhaps 10 per cent, he said in a Commons statement to the meeting in Luxembourg on June 11 and 12.

In his statement, he said: I regret that the Council has thus failed to take decisions on sensible price arrangements for cereals and rapeseed for next season. This represents a serious setback to the progress which has been made in putting the common agricultural policy onto a more realistic basis. Cereals thought will need to be given by the Agriculture Council and the Commission to the situation which now confronts us.

Lavatory attendant earned £17,000

A lavatory attendant in the London borough of Southwark earned £17,000 last year, according to a programme by London Weekend Television to be screened tonight (Our Local Government Correspondent writes).

The London Programme says Southwark's 25 public lavatories are staffed 14 hours a day by two shifts of attendants, who earn a basic £140 a week plus overtime.

In the programme, Ms Elizabeth Bendall, a Labour member of the Labour-controlled council, says that trade unions, which have been given a bigger say in council policy.

She says union members have blocked a review of the operation of council lavatories. "I certainly welcomed the move to greater accountability," Ms Bendall says. "But instead of taking a wider role in directing council policy, they have in fact used it for rather short-term advantages to achieve their own aims."

The programme says workers are co-opted to council sub-committees and can speak at private meetings of the Labour group.

National Front student is allowed to defer exams

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Patrick Harrington, the National Front activist, is being allowed to take his final examinations at the Polytechnic of North London one term later than normal because of disruption to his studies.

Two other students on the philosophy degree course with Mr Harrington are being allowed to defer their examinations until September as a result of the trouble caused by Mr Harrington's presence, Dr John Beishon, the acting director of PNL, said.

The occupations and demonstrations at polytechnic buildings seriously interfered with the studies of some students.

Dr Beishon has written to the examination boards to ask them to take the disturbances into account when marking papers.

He has also told students to make their own submissions about how their studies have been affected.

The Council for National Academic Awards has been kept informed of these moves. All students on the course with Mr Harrington have been interviewed to find out how much teaching they missed.

Pupils taking O and A levels this summer will not receive the same dispensation from examination boards because their classes have been excluded from industrial action being taken by teachers' unions.



Mr Harrington, whose studies were disrupted

Misdirected case of lugworm digging

A case against three sea anglers accused of disturbing birds in a nature reserve of international importance by digging for lugworm bait came to a sudden end yesterday after magistrates realized it was in the wrong court.

Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve, which covers more than 8,000 acres of coastal mudflats and dunes, crosses the boundary between two petty sessions divisions.

When magistrates at Berwick-upon-Tweed heard that the alleged offences occurred in Budle Bay at the southern end of the reserve, they stopped.

The case will now take place at Alnwick Magistrates' Court, 40 miles away.

The three anglers, Ian Galbraith, of Starlight Crescent, Seaton Delaval, and Philip Simpson and Edwin Doyle, both of Shearwater Way, Blyth, all Northumberland, were not present.

An agreement between the Sea Anglers' Federation and Nature Conservancy Council limits bait digging which disturbs birds and depletes lugworm stocks, to a designated area. Digging at night with artificial lights was banned.



The West German Agriculture Minister, Herr Ignaz Kiechle, explaining his use of the veto on EEC cereal prices.

EEC whip-round necessary to meet new budget

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

Six months late the EEC has at last been given a budget for 1985. The European Parliament, which threw the original one out last December, accepted one yesterday which will cost £16,200 million - some £1,120 million above the present legal ceiling.

The extra money will have to be found by a non-repayable whip-round among member states. Britain's share of this will be about £255 million, although officials estimate that the actual cost to the British economy, after rebates and payments are taken into account, will be no more than £40 million.

The British Government will have to obtain permission from the House of Commons to pay over the extra money to the community. Mrs Thatcher means to put this to MPs before the summer recess, along with proposals to increase the legal ceiling on contributions to the EEC and to ratify the accession treaty with Spain and Portugal.

But Wednesday's failure by ministers in Luxembourg to reach agreement on a cereal price for this year means that the European Commission will have to police the new budget very carefully if costs are not going to exceed income. Only by imposing price cuts on cereals will this be possible and member states are extremely unlikely to agree to put up more

money this year to pay the bills if too much money is spent.

Mr Erans Andriessen, the Agriculture Commissioner, told the Parliament yesterday that he would not shirk his responsibilities and would manage the common agriculture policy to keep its cost inside the agreed budget.

The first commission price proposals will be announced shortly and are expected to include cuts greater than those West Germany used its veto to prevent.

Some £11,370 million of the total are earmarked for farm spending, to be used by the commission in working out how much money can be spent on agriculture next year.

Under rules for controlling spending, which were eventually agreed under British insistence last year, the agriculture budget has to grow more slowly than the Community's own income. This should mean that slowly, but progressively, a larger share of the budget is available for non-agricultural purposes.

However, the fact that the Agriculture Council has failed to agree a complete price package this year is an ominous warning for the future. On this occasion West Germany was well aware there was no money available to meet its demands, yet it fought to the end. Other countries could well follow its example in future.

Benefit paid in wages rather than by DHSS giro Mothers will lose under credit plan

SOCIAL SECURITY REVIEW

The Government's proposed Family Credit has its advantages, but also many critics. NICHOLAS TIMMINS reports.

The Government claims advantages for its proposed Family Credit other than just eliminating the worst effects of the poverty trap.

Free school meals and milk for those on the Family Income Supplement will be abolished, with the new credit providing cash compensation. It is a move away from benefits in kind rather than cash, which are seen as patronizing and demeaning.

Family Credit will be paid through the pay-packet, not the DHSS giro, with the employer knocking it off tax and national insurance bill, making the first step towards integration of the tax and benefits system.

Because the credit should offer appreciably more than at present to families in work than to unemployed families, it will provide incentives to take low-paid work. Employers may encourage people to apply for the credit because low wages will appear to be boosted by the higher take-home "pay" the benefit provides and that might increase the numbers taking the benefit.

But on other grounds the proposal has many critics. It marks a reversal of the policy of increasingly paying benefits for children to the mother. It is women who in the majority draw the existing Family Income Supplement. But it will chiefly be men who get Family Credit.

Critics argue that money is not shared equally in families and that it is the women and children who lose. The way Family Credit is to be financed will make that worse. It will clearly cost more than the £130 million FIS costs - up to £700 million more initially, perhaps.

The Green Paper only hints, but that money is likely to come by not increasing child benefit fully in line with inflation. Each 10p by which the £6.85 benefit fails to rise with prices saves about £50 million - enough quite quickly to finance a more generous family credit.

But part of the argument for replacing the old child tax allowance, which generally went to men, with child benefit paid to the mothers, was that it was more likely to be spent on children than on drink and horses. Women in poor families are thus likely to see money transferred back from the purse to the wallet by both the family credit and child benefit changes.

The counter-argument is: Should it be the State's job to ensure that families share money equally?

The free schools meals proposals is also controversial. Family Credit children will get cash compensation, but the government also plans to end local authorities' discretion to provide free or subsidized

school meals to children not on FIS or supplementary benefit.

The Child Poverty Action Group says 300,000 children receive such meals. While some are likely to be taken into Family Credit, others will not.

The most intriguing argument is the credit's part in the Government's apparent drive for a low-wage economy. "It seems to me an open invitation for employers to pay low wages and have the taxpayer pick up the tab," Joan Brown, of the Policy Studies Institute, says.

The counter view could be to see the credit as job creating, subsidizing jobs other than by government grants.

The credit may, however, take some steam out of wage demands by stopping the man on the picket line waving his pay slip and saying: "How can I keep a wife and three kids on that?" - something which intensely annoyed Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, during the 1982 NHS dispute.

Monday: Housing.

Sri Lankans to study Indian constitution

Colombo - A team of Sri Lankan lawyers, headed by President Jayewardene's brother, Mr H. W. Jayewardene QC, leaves for India tomorrow to study the working of India's constitution, with special emphasis on the relationship between the centre and the states, and the powers granted to states and union territories (our correspondent writes).

Among the officials accompanying the delegation is the Secretary of the All Party Conference, Mr Felix Dias Abeyasinghe. The conference talks collapsed last year when the Tamil United Liberation Front criticized the proposals and the Government withdrew them amidst mounting public pressure.

High US and EEC subsidies criticized

UN body attacks world food dumping

From Diana Geddes Paris

The dumping on world markets of highly-subsidized cereals and other agricultural products was criticized severely yesterday by the UN World Food Council in a communiqué at the end of its four-day ministerial meeting in Paris.

"A number of industrialized countries are spending vast resources in subsidies which distort trade patterns, and some are planning to spend even more," it said, in evident allusion to the recent US decision to spend \$2.5 billion (about £1.5 billion) in subsidizing cereal exports, as well as to continued EEC farm subsidies.

even if importers may be paying low prices as a result, experience shows that adequate farm incentives are indispensable for stable and growing production, both at the international and national levels, for sustained world food security."

The 36 industrialized, developing and communist nations of the council also criticized the US, again without naming it, for its trade embargo against Nicaragua. They spoke of their concern at its effect on agricultural production and food security, and said: "Food should not be used as an instrument of political and economic pressure."

Africa's worsening economic and food crisis remained at the centre of council deliberations.

The communiqué paid tribute to generous international efforts to meet the crisis, but stressed that extraordinary and sustained international support was still needed to rebuild affected African countries' economies.

It also stressed the need for "an improved and more equitable international economic, trade and financial environment, with adequate provisions to reduce trade protectionism substantially, resolve the debt problem of developing countries... and improve international monetary stability".

At the same time, the council made it clear that developing countries must themselves make changes in domestic policies to reach long-term solutions.



Geoffrey Smith

A stage has been reached in the dialogue between the Northern Ireland and Irish Governments which is intended to be a principal purpose of the agreement is to avoid the possibility of a new political settlement becoming essentially a damage limitation exercise.

That was evident from the report in The Irish Times yesterday that the Lord Justice of Northern Ireland, Lord Lowry, and other members of the panel might be preparing to go over the proposed new courts in both north and south to deal with terrorism.

It would be hard to see against such opposition a scheme to have a judge sitting as a member of a northern bench, but a minority member of benches. But that is means the only shared understanding between governments.

There is disagreement over the proposed integrated body that would be secure closer Anglo-Irish operation over the republic could like that approached as possible to join, while the British Government could not agree to go beyond consultation.

Control of police another problem

Control of the police is another problem. It also still deadlocks over political constraints of the Irish and over their participating in the and therefore no securing the return of SDLP.

Above all, these familiar difficulties in the political constraints of a Garret FitzGerald who such as to make it impossible for him to agree to any real substance to the acceptable to the community in the old dilemma that prevented progress for years. There is a common ground between Catholic and Protestant minorities: whatever is prepared to swallow the outrage the other.

The one intriguing development is the Mr. Hume, the SDLP leader, has been putting forward the idea of a new representation in Westminster in Northern Ireland. This implies the interests of the Catholic community in the province are safeguarded not only by the good offices of the which the present Anglo-Irish dialogue is based - but through increased representation in the Commons.

Thin end of the wedge

If this course were followed it would be logical to try to get the Northern Irish legislation in Westminster on the Scottish legislation in the House of Commons towards the closer integration of the province with the United Kingdom that was envisaged in the 1972-73 talks. It is a political move, but it is a political move.

Both parties would see it as an example of what they are trying to avoid: the possibility of a new settlement in the case of Northern Ireland for all the intellectual and political reasons. There is a political move, but it is a political move.

British Scientists

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Magnets tackle child cancer

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Cancer ward saved by charity

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New cancer fight

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Contra aid win foreshadows Reagan bid for military funds

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

After a year of extraordinary political manoeuvring, President Reagan has won approval from the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives to give \$27 million (\$21 million) of "humanitarian" aid to the guerrillas seeking the overthrow of the Sandinista Government of Nicaragua.

It is a major personal victory for Mr Reagan, who can now be expected to try to persuade Congress to provide military funds.

The money will be released in three equal instalments over the next nine months. The Central Intelligence Agency and the Defence Department have been specifically ordered not to interfere in its distribution.

"Humanitarian" aid is defined as food, clothing and medicine, and the Red Cross or some other neutral agency will be invited to distribute it. Lorries, guns and ammunition are banned.

Nearly 700 people were arrested in dozens of cities during demonstrations against the Administration's anti-Sandinista policy.

Nicaragua, a poor country the size of England and Wales, is being hit by the US-supported guerrillas on its northern border, and is pounding the smaller guerrilla forces on the southern border. The success of the offensive, which began more than a month ago, helped tip the scales in the House of Representatives on Wednesday night.

The vote was 248 to 184 - a margin that surprised and delighted the Administration. Seventy-three Democrats voted for the aid. The House also gave approval for the CIA to exchange information with the Contras - a provision designed

to open up the flow of intelligence.

That is a major boost for the rebels, whose increasing effectiveness is blamed in large measure on lack of information about Sandinista troop deployments. The US almost certainly flies reconnaissance missions over Nicaragua from its base of Palmerola in Honduras.

The Republican-controlled Senate last week approved \$38 million of non-military aid over the next two years and authorized the CIA to distribute the money. The differences will have to be resolved in a House-Senate conference - the stage for another battle by the Administration to get approval for the CIA to distribute the "humanitarian" aid. Democratic leaders privately believe that the CIA cannot be trusted to use the funds for strictly non-military purposes.

In Managua, the Government-run Voice of Nicaragua radio said the House decision would bring only "more massacres, more suffering for the people". Several dozen US citizens living in Nicaragua chanted protests outside the American Embassy.

Two months ago the House narrowly rejected any aid for the rebels. The change of heart came in part because of political pressure on southern Democrats, whose home states fear a massive influx of refugees from central America. The visit to Moscow in April by President Ortega had a big impact on Congressional opinion. And there is a real fear that the Democrat Party is being viewed as "soft on communism".

Leading article, page 15

Man behind the scenes

Dual triumph for a low-key negotiator

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

This has been a good week for Mr Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's National Security Adviser.

It was Mr McFarlane who was the principal architect of President Reagan's decision to adhere to the Salt agreement for the time being in order to ease US-Soviet tensions and give the arms control process a chance - a decision that was hailed by European allies and most members of Congress.

Mr McFarlane was also largely responsible for shaping the compromise and spearheading the White House's lobbying effort that resulted in the House of Representatives' turn-around decision to aid the Nicaraguan rebels.

The two events are a dual triumph for the quiet behind-the-scenes negotiating style of the man who has recently emerged as the driving force behind the Administration's foreign and defence policy.

When he took over from Mr William Clark two years ago, Mr McFarlane was clearly a compromise choice between administration conservatives who were lobbying for Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick and moderates who wanted to keep the controversial former ambassador to the United Nations out of such a politically sensitive job.

He was considered a technocrat who would be content to remain quietly in the background and exert little influence on the formulation of policy. It was assumed that Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, and Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, would be left to pursue their rival ambitions to take over foreign and defence policy during Mr Reagan's second term.

However, Mr McFarlane - a former Marine who is invariably referred to by his nickname "Bud" - now rivals and sometimes even overrules them. On occasions he has found a middle way that takes account of their frequently opposing points of view. But there have been times when he has knocked their heads together and pushed through his own ideas.

On the whole, he has tended to side with Mr Shultz. They share similar views about the

desirability for President Reagan to use America's greatly increased military and economic strength to pursue diplomatic initiatives with the Soviet Union. Neither has the king of over-sized ego that caused constant friction between the White House and State Department when Mr Henry Kissinger and Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski held the National Security job.

One indication of Mr McFarlane's growing influence has been his move from the office in the White House basement used by his predecessor to a large office close to the President. He has also started talking to the press in front of television cameras instead of on the customary basis of an "Unnamed Administration official".

A former aide to two previous National Security advisers, Mr Kissinger and General Brent Scowcroft, Mr McFarlane has more foreign policy experience than any other member of the Reagan team. Although as an "outsider" he initially lacked political clout, his quiet, self-effacing style and his unmatched access to the President (they often have three or four meetings each day) it was only a matter of time before his influence began to make itself felt.

Mr McFarlane's rise has been accompanied by a decline in the influence of Mr Weinberger. Although they are still friends, Mr Weinberger's word no longer carries the weight it once did.



Mr McFarlane: Driving force in White House.

Spy trial told of car sex

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles

Richard Miller, the first Federal Bureau of Investigation agent ever charged with espionage, testified that he took an accused Soviet spy, Svetlana Ogorodnikova, to a beach at Malibu and then had sex with her in a parked car just a stone's throw from the FBI headquarters.

Mr Miller, aged 48, a father of eight, was called as the US Government's key witness on the 21st day of testimony in the spy trial of Mrs Ogorodnikova and her husband, Nikolai. The Russian couple are being tried separately and Mr Miller will go on trial when the Ogorodnikovs' case is over.

Mr Miller was ordered to

testify by the judge after promises that his statements as a witness for the prosecution will not be used against him. Mr Miller admitted he first met Mrs Ogorodnikova in May 1984 and a few days later had intercourse with her in his car. The prosecution questioned Mr Miller in an attempt to show that he had serious financial problems when he allegedly tried to sell FBI documents for \$65,000 (£52,000) in cash and gold.

After their first meeting at which she bought him lunch, Mr Miller admitted he did not tell his superiors that he had sex with her. "I call that stupid", he admitted.



Police surround protesters outside the State Department in Washington displaying the names of Nicaraguans they say were killed by Contras.

LeGrange scorns MPs' calls to quit

From Michael Horsey, Cape Town

Demands for the resignation of Mr Louis Le Grange, the South African Minister of Law and Order, were made here yesterday in the House of Assembly, the white chamber of Parliament.

MPs of the Progressive Federal Party, the main opposition in this house, led by its spokesman on police affairs, Mrs Helen Suzman, said Mr Le Grange must accept responsibility for the "ghastly happenings" of March 21, when 20

blacks were shot dead and 27 wounded near Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape.

"A total lack of control and discipline" was clear among police, she said. Other PFP MPs accused Mr Le Grange of blundering ineptitude, which had led to a calculated act of violence.

The charges were levelled during a debate on the report of the Kannermeier Commission into the shootings tabled on Tuesday.

Mr Le Grange was severely taken to task for having told

Parliament on March 21 that police had been surrounded and pelted with sticks, stones and petrol bombs, a version of events which the commission established was totally inaccurate.

Opposition MPs said he had either been hoodwinked by senior police or was himself party to falsehood.

Mr Le Grange showed no inclination to accept the PFP advice, saying it was up to President Botha to decide who he wanted in his cabinet.

Gandhi hits at Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

From Michael Binyon, Washington

In an unusually outspoken condemnation of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and the Moscow-backed Vietnamese occupation of Cambodia, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, India's Prime Minister, yesterday told a joint session of Congress that outside interference and intervention jeopardized the stability and security of the region.

"We are opposed to both foreign presences and pressures. The one is advanced as a justification for the other. We stand for a political settlement in Afghanistan that ensures sovereignty, integrity, independence and non-aligned status. And enables the refugees to return to their homes in safety and honour."

Without naming the Soviet Union, he said such a settlement could only come through dialogue and a realistic consensus among the parties directly concerned. India fully supported the initiative of the UN Secretary-General, Javier Perez de Cuellar, in this direction.

Afghanistan is a main point of disagreement between India and the US, and has taken up much of the discussions Mr Gandhi has had with President Reagan and Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State. Washington has pressed India to take a tougher line on the Soviet intervention.

In his address Mr Gandhi dwelt pointedly on points of agreement - shared ideals, the conviction that democracy was the best guarantor of development, and the commitment to a free press.

But he underlined worries about American policy: the "sawdust erosion" he saw in the commitment to international economic co-operation and the erection of trade barriers, the "new dimensions" to the arms race. India had "deep reservations" about the militarization of space.

Assad's belligerent vow to crush Israel

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

While Shia Muslim militiamen yet again tried to storm their way towards the Palestinian guerrillas still inside the Sabra refugee camp in Beirut, Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan yesterday called for an Arab summit conference to end the fighting, condemning this week's hijacking and destruction of a Jordanian passenger jet as part of a conspiracy against the Jordan PLO alliance.

While the Crown Prince may well have been right, he discreetly failed to suggest just who might have been behind such a plot - the Jordanians in fact suspect the Syrians - and the only decisive act taken by the Jordanians in response to the hijacking has been the suspension of its airline's flights to Beirut. In the meantime, however, a quite different mood prevailed yesterday in the wake of an unexpected and militant speech by President Hafez Assad.

Without mentioning what Crown Prince Hassan referred to as the "aggression" against the Palestinian camps in Beirut, President Assad promised that Syria would "fight (the Israelis) everywhere, we shall crush them in the end and Israel will not achieve victory."

In a mood of self-congratulation that went far beyond historical facts, the President also claimed that "the great people of Syria played the main role in defeating Israel in Lebanon". On the face of it, this was not the sort of suggestion calculated to appeal to the

hundreds of Lebanese Shia Muslim guerrillas who created such havoc among Israel's army in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli-trained gunmen who kidnapped 21 Finnish UN soldiers in southern Lebanon last week still showed no sign yesterday of releasing them, despite optimistic noises from the Defence Ministry in Helsinki, that they may soon be freed.

UN officers yesterday met members of the "South Lebanon Army" militia held by Shia Muslim gunmen near Tyre. The "SLA" commander has demanded his own meeting with the men as a condition of the Finns' release, but there is still no sign that this will be granted.

It is, of course, easy for Syria and the Lebanese Government to concentrate on these issues just now, ignoring the far more important collapse of Syrian policy in Beirut symbolized by the camp fighting yesterday in which Shia Muslims again used rocket launchers against the Palestinian defenders.

At least 550 people have been killed in the camps in the past 25 days.

Even in the hills above the Lebanese capital, fighting continues between Druze and Christian militiamen. The body of the latest victim of this battle, a French peace observer, was flown home to France yesterday. French officers escorted the coffin of Captain Jean-Pierre Fournier to the airport, protected by armoured vehicles of the Lebanese Army's Sixth Brigade.

Dead Sea canal shelved

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Israel has announced the suspension of its grandiose scheme to channel Mediterranean sea water to the Dead Sea and to exploit the difference in altitude to generate electric power.

Mr Moshe Shahal, the Minister of Energy, told a press conference in Jerusalem on Tuesday that the project would

cost twice as much as originally estimated and was no longer considered economically feasible. He said the Treasury was unable to find a source to continue funding the operation.

The minister, a leader of the Labour Party, pointed out that the dubious venture had been started by the Likud Administration

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19 hand in resignations to Soares

Portugal's 19 Social Democrat ministers and secretaries of state handed in their resignations yesterday to the Socialist Prime Minister, Dr Mario Soares.

They had announced their intention to do so last week, when their new leader Senhor Anibal Cavaco Silva, withdrew the party from the coalition Government, but held their hand until the agreement to enter the EEC was signed.

The Social Democrats have agreed to stay at their posts until a new government is formed or Dr Soares resigns. Dr Soares met President Eanes yesterday to discuss his Government's future.

Trains collide

Delhi (Reuters) - At least 35 people died and 100 were injured when two trains collided at Agra, near the Taj Mahal, the Press Trust of India reported. At least 40 passengers on the Chhatrisgarh Express were in a serious condition and others were trapped in the wreckage after the collision with a goods train.

Nato choice

Mons (Reuters) - Nato's Supreme Commander in Europe, General Bernard Rogers, announced that President Reagan had nominated US Air Force General John Chain as his Chief of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe. General Chain is a bureau director at the State Department.

Captive couple

Islamabad (Reuters) - An Australian couple, Robert and Jenny Williamson, kidnapped by Baluchi tribesmen in Pakistan more than three weeks ago, are being held in Afghanistan, a senior official in Quetta said. The kidnappers were ready to free them, but it could take several days.

Iran bombed

Baghdad (AFP) - Iraqi planes carried out six more attacks in Iran after two raids on Tehran near midnight that left two people dead and seven injured. The latest targets included the cities of Kerend, Bakhtaran and Dezful.

Beaches closed

Warsaw (Reuters) - Industrial pollution which could cause skin disease has forced closure for the summer of 10 beach resorts on Poland's Baltic coast near Gdansk, the Warsaw newspaper Zycie Warszawy reported.

Finger appeal

Tel Aviv (Reuters) - Israeli radio stations broadcast urgent appeals for a man to reclaim a finger he lost in a work accident. The man was taken to hospital in Haifa while his fellow-workers, who found the finger, took it to another hospital 12 miles away. By the time contact was made with the first hospital, the man had left.

Four days of curfew in Ahmedabad

Army halts mob killings

From Michael Hamlyn, Ahmedabad

A noise like the agitated twittering of an unsettled swarm of starlings marked a break in the indefinite curfew stamped on the walled city of Ahmedabad as the women, but only the women, were allowed out of their houses to buy food for two meagre hours.

For four days the Indian Army has kept the inhabitants under curfew to try to stop them hacking each other to death with bludgeons, or burning each other's houses with petrol-soaked rags. In the narrow streets of Dabgarwadi several trucks of soldiers lounge in squads and jeeps in an enclave of Hindu houses adrift in an otherwise Muslim sea.

The houses are tall and elegant, impressively carved from an era when Ahmedabad's old city was where the richer merchants lived instead of in the sprawling suburbs across the Sabarmati river bed. Here last weekend a family of eight Hindu drummers locked themselves in against the threat of a Muslim mob. Unable to get past the locked doors when their house was set alight, they all died.

Ahmedabad has a long history of inter-communal tolerance, and though the present spasm of violence has been continuing in Gujarat state (of which this is the largest city), the demonstrations, general strikes, marches and disturbances have encouraged hooligans and those with old scores to settle.

But Gujarat is still a state of merchants and moneylenders and the more advanced castes, the priestly Brahmins, the land-owning Patels and the businessmen Banias are rapidly tiring of unsettled times, with factories closed, hotels empty, transport halted and death and destruction in the streets.

More than 160 people have died violently since the agitation started in March. It began in protest against the announced state government education and in Government jobs to the backward castes, the leatherworkers, the washermen and the honey-collectors, for example. Gujarat is unusual, too, in that the warrior caste, the Kshatriyas, who provide the Hindu royal families, are regarded as backward.

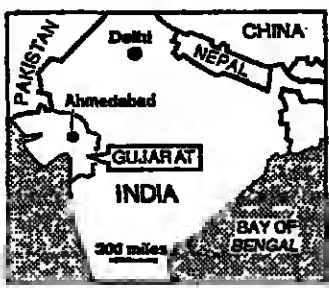
But a citizens' committee has now been organized to try to bring peace. They have started trying to end the agitation by getting both sides, the government and the protesters, who are mostly medical and engineering students, to back down.

The government, led by a wily Congress politician, Mr Madhavsinh Solanki, the first Chief Minister in the state to have come from the backward castes, has agreed to shelve the increase in reserved places until a national consensus, promised by the Prime Minister.

Mr Solanki has also agreed to appoint a judicial inquiry into the disturbance, which nearly gets him off a number of political books. It enables him to look magnanimously to the citizens' committee, though the inquiry is something that he would have to have created at some time, since the police are unlikely to be best people to investigate the riots. They took part in several violent incidents and are blamed for having caused others.

It also enables him to mitigate police anger at the inquiry by allowing him to say he was compelled to order it. The students are unwilling to call their agitation off at present, saying that they want the increased reservation withdrawn, not merely shelved, and want more reassurance about the inquiry. There is not, though, an unbridgeable gap between the two sides, and given goodwill it could be closed.

The Congress politicians, however, fear that it may not be as simple as that. They see the hand of a number of opposition leaders behind the students, disappointed at the overwhelming victory of Congress in the Assembly elections. They fear the agitators will not be satisfied until the Government is overturned.



Guerrilla clashes kill 40 in Colombia

From Geoffrey Matthews, Bogota

Colombia has renewed efforts to restore a ceasefire pact with the subversive April 19 Movement (M19) after an outbreak of fierce fighting between guerrillas and the armed forces in the Valle del Cauca province.

A death toll of 20 - 32 of

them guerrillas - has been reported after a series of battles near Cali, the provincial capital and the nation's third largest city.

In a separate action in the region a dissident wing of the nation's biggest guerrilla group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces, of Colombia (FARC), tried and failed to capture the

jail in Yumbo. FARC's leadership has accepted a peace treaty with President Betancur and is currently preparing to reform as a left-wing movement in the political mainstream. It's dissident wing, however known as the Ricardo Franco Front, continues to mount terrorist actions.



Mr Wladyslaw Frasnynuk listening to legal arguments in the court which he accused yesterday of acting under orders from the Polish authorities.

Craxi on the spot over Eureka

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Eureka high-technology project so dear to President Mitterrand of France seems to have been the main difficulty during his talks in Florence yesterday with Signor Bettino Craxi, Italy's Prime Minister.

The meeting was technically part of the six-monthly meetings between leaders of the two countries. But this time had a much weightier significance because they come so close to the European summit, which convenes in Milan at the end of the month, and which marks the close of the Italian presidency of the EEC.

Signor Craxi is known to

want the summit to show substantial progress on two issues which he sees to be vital.

The first is a fresh stimulus to the political unity of the Community, which might mean re-drafting, replacing or simply reviewing the Treaty of Rome.

The second is progress towards peace talks in the Middle East, based on a meeting involving Jordan and the Palestinians on one hand and Israel on the other.

On these points, Italy and France, are reasonably close. Eureka places Signor Craxi uncomfortably close to the need for a choice.

The French plan is seen here to be an alternative to the US Star Wars project, aimed at technological cooperation for the application for peaceful means of joint research.

President Mitterrand has tried to tone down the idea of an ultimatum. In an interview in the weekly magazine *L'Europeo* he said: "My concept is that each country, for example Italy will not have to decide whether or not to belong to Eureka, but to take part or not in this or that particular programme, contributing men and resources to it."

Spain seeks media curb on terrorism

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, is to seek a voluntary agreement with his country's news media intended to reduce publicity given to terrorist acts, following the examples of Britain and Italy.

His announcement came yesterday, the day after Spain's signing of the EEC accession treaty was overshadowed by the violence of ETA, the Basque terrorist organization, left four dead, including an Army colonel.

Señor González said he could not guarantee that the terrorists would not seek out or use forthcoming national occasions, for instance the referendum on Nato, to gain spectacular publicity.

But the media could collaborate in a perfectly democratic spirit, to deprive the terrorists of at least one of their principal objectives.

He recalled last autumn's Brighton bombing in which the entire British Cabinet might have been killed, in replying to criticisms of the Spanish police having failed to detect the presence in Madrid of an ETA "commando".

Señor Narcis Serra, the Defence Minister, has said that the authorities were alerted on June 5 that an ETA commando might be in Madrid.

● BAYONNE: French police yesterday ordered out of the country Senator Manuel Martinez Beistegui, aged 26, one of three Spanish Basque militants extradited by France last year, after he returned illegally following his acquittal by a Madrid court (AFP reports). He has replied to the expulsion order by seeking political asylum in France.

Solidarity three angrily abandon hope of fair trial

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

In short, angry, final statements, three Solidarity leaders yesterday denounced the Gdansk court that is trying them no charges of planning to stir up protest strikes in Poland.

The court will deliver verdicts today on the three defendants, the dissident historian and opposition theorist Mr Adam Michnik and two Solidarity organizers, Mr Bogdan Lis and Mr Wladyslaw Frasnynuk. The prosecutor has demanded four-year jail sentences for Mr Michnik and Mr Lis and a five-year term for Mr Frasnynuk.

The defendants and their counsel made plain yesterday that they have abandoned any hope of presenting a comprehensive defence case, the main judge having ruled out any statement that touched on politics, and are hoping for a more sympathetic response from the Warsaw Supreme Court when they submit their appeal.

Mr Michnik, who has been expelled from the court four times during the trial, confirmed his defence speech to 30 seconds. "After what I have seen and heard here, in order to stay true to my conscience, I can only say one thing I forgive those who lie about me and repress me." The 38-year-old historian declared, "The trial is a farce. Judge Krzysztof Zienkiewicz replied: "Thank you."

Mr Lis, aged 32, an engineer from Gdansk, tried to remind the court of the government promises made during the August 1980 strikes that Solidarity leaders would not be treated as criminals. But he got on

further that the sentence, "I was one of the signatories of the (August) agreements" before being ruled not of record.

Incensed, he broke off his defence speech and said simply: "There is a complete lack of evidence against me. I think that making statements here is useless. The indictment was a provocation, and that was proved here."

The trial, viewed as the most important Solidarity trial since the lifting of martial law, has drawn international protests. The Pope has led prayers for the defendants, his emissary, Archbishop Luigi Poggi, raised the matter in talks this week with Warsaw ministers, and a number of politicians, including the Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, have pleaded for the three men.

Mr Frasnynuk, who made the longest defence speech yesterday - some three minutes - expressed the views of the defendants, their lawyers and their sympathizers in Solidarity, and the Catholic Church by suggesting that the court had been acting on political guidelines from Warsaw rather than as an independent body.

The court, he said, has "clearly received orders from the authorities to remind us of the rigors imposed on us after December 13 (1981 when martial law was imposed) ... I cannot count on anything from this court."

On Wednesday the defence lawyers, calling for an acquittal, had described the trial as akin to "the worst political trials of Stalioist times".

Pressure mounts on Mengele family

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

Interest here in the Mengele affair seems to have shifted from the exhumed remains in São Paulo to the nature of the Bavarian family which bears his name.

How much did its members know about Josef Mengele's movements around South America? Is it really true that he once returned to Germany after the war, to attend a family funeral?

The family includes a lawyer, an architect, and the largest single employer in the town of Günzburg. All would seem to have a vital interest in continuing to be acceptable to a typically respectable German provincial society which, despite the notoriety of their name, they undoubtedly have been.

If the corpse in São Paulo is not Mengele, and they knew it, they would have been party to a huge deception. The world's press and television would again descend on Günzburg and Freiburg, the Bavarian town where the lawyer son lives, and frustrate for some time the family's determined efforts to regain its privacy.

Those efforts were relaxed a little yesterday, when Herr Dieter Mengele, aged 34, one of the two nephews of Josef Mengele who own the farm

machinery firm at Günzburg, gave an interview to the local paper, the *Augsburger Allgemeine*.

He denied that the family had misled the authorities over the years in any way that would have prevented Mengele's capture. "The only false trails were laid by Nazi hunters like (Simon) Wiesenthal and (Beate) Klarsfeld," he is quoted as saying.

Asked why the family had not announced earlier that Mengele had died in 1979, he replied: "We agreed to say nothing. We didn't want to risk the necks of people who helped our uncle for 30 years." He was "no longer sure today" whether this withholding of the news had been right.

One theory here is that the family merely represents, on a particularly lurid scale, a common situation for German families: there is a member who did dreadful things during the Third Reich.

Stern magazine yesterday claimed that Herr Jens Hackenjos, son by another father of Mengele's first wife, had, offered to sell the story of Mengele's fugitive years, but later said the family needed more time to think about it. Herr Hackenjos has denied having made the offer.

Kohl to ban rally masks

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

It is to be made illegal in West Germany, under certain conditions, for masks to be worn during political demonstrations as a way of avoiding identification by the police.

This is one of the first results of a political intrigue that has gone on for weeks over alleged lack of leadership by the Chancellor, Herr Helmut Kohl. One right-wing complaint has been that he defers to the Free Democrats, the liberal component of the centre-right coalition.

The right, as embodied in Herr Franz Josef Strauss's Bavarian Christian Social Union, say the FDP is weak no

law and order issues. The FDP has, among other things, opposed the ban on masked demonstrators.

As part of the intrigue, Herr Kohl was forced yesterday to meet Herr Martin Bangemann, the Free Democrat leader, and the FDP to review the state of the coalition. The impending law against masks was made known while they spoke.

The "certain conditions" represent a compromise: Herr Strauss wanted a total ban, but the FDP seems to have ensured that it will be enacted only where the masked demonstrators can also be proved to have endangered public order.

ANC denies grenade attacks on two South African Coloured MPs

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town

The African National Congress (ANC), the main underground opposition to South Africa's white minority Government, has denied with unusual promptness any responsibility for Wednesday's grenade attacks on the homes of two Coloured (mixed-race) Members of Parliament.

Minister of Law and Order, Mr Louis Le Grange, claimed within hours of the attacks that he had "no doubt" they were the work of the ANC, apparently because of the sophisticated weaponry of Soviet origin used by the assailants.

There is some evidence of a division of opinion within the ANC about the wisdom and morality of striking directly at human beings rather than inanimate targets like petrol depots, railway lines and the like.

In recent years, the ANC has made clear that it regards members of the police and Army, both black and white, as legitimate targets of its guerrilla warfare, but has continued to

insist that civilian casualties would be avoided as far as possible.

In 1983 a car bomb explosion outside a building in Pretoria bombing offices of the Air Force killed a score of people and injured more than 200, black and white. Although some of the dead and wounded were air force personnel most were not.

The ANC, from its Zambian exile, belatedly claimed responsibility for the incident, but since then Mr Oliver Tambo,

the ANC's president-general, has often shown unease when taxed by journalists to justify the incident.

Earlier this year, Mr Nelson Mandela, the former ANC leader serving a life term of imprisonment in South Africa, said the bombing was "a mistake" when interviewed by Lord Bethell in his Cape Town jail.

On the other hand, the ANC did not hesitate to claim responsibility for a bomb last month in the Johannesburg offices of the Army's medical corps in which 14 people were injured, most of them civilians.

by the ANC have also seemed to endorse, at least in implication, violent attacks on black policemen and councillors as part of a campaign to render black townships "ungovernable" and replace "stagnant councils" with popularly elected committees.

● LUSAKA: The ANC is to launch its biggest conference since 1969 at a secret venue in Southern Africa on Sunday, the group said yesterday (Reuters reports).

PILKINGTON ANNUAL RESULTS.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT.

Improved United Kingdom operations and another excellent contribution from overseas have resulted in a pre-tax profit of £116m, the highest in the history of the Group (up 31% on 1984).

The second interim dividend has been increased by 1p to 7.5p per share, a total for the year of 12.5p.

UK TURNAROUND

During the year much attention was focused on the United Kingdom, where output per man was increased by 7% against a manufacturing industry average of 2%.

All divisions except Fibreglass Insulation are now in profit.

Capital expenditure was held to £84.4m and included the purchase of Rockwool factories from Cape Insulation Ltd. and the building of the new coating works at Corby.

OVERSEAS STRENGTH

With 70% of our turnover coming from abroad, our influence as an industry leader is increasing. An example of how doors are continuing to open is our joint venture float glass plant in the People's Republic of China.

While in the U.S., Libbey-Owens-Ford produced record results with an advance of 75% on after tax profits compared with last year.

MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURING

A major restructuring of management responsibilities has led to operational and profit responsibility being delegated by the board to divisional executives. Much of the central committee structure has been dismantled, and decision taking focused at the operational level.

LICENSING INCOME BROADER BASED

The source of licensing income continues to change from float bath technology to the more general transfer of technology and technical assistance. Together, float licensing and technical assistance amounted to £30m in the year, £6m higher than 1984.

NEW PRODUCT SUCCESSES

As the benefits of restructuring in the United Kingdom come through, new products such as Cemfil fibre, our asbestos replacement, and Kappafloat, a high energy glass which gives triple glazing performance to double glazing, are already making their mark.

PROSPECTS

There is a continuing improvement in United Kingdom profitability. The overseas companies should continue to perform well with the Group making further progress through better productivity and improving margins. There will however be exceptional United Kingdom redundancy costs as restructuring is completed.

ANTONY PILKINGTON
CHAIRMAN

	1985 £m	1984 £m
Sales:	1226.9	1214.4
Trading profit:	86.8	76.7
Licensing income:	30.3	24.0
Related companies:	28.9	20.3
Net interest paid:	(30.0)	(32.7)
Group profit before tax:	116.0	88.3
Earnings per share:	21.8p	13.3p
Dividends per share:	12.5p	11.5p
Dividend cover:	1.4	1.0

The above figures include an additional contribution to replacement at current cost and obsolescence. On an historic cost basis comparable figures would be:

Group profit before tax:	£148.3m	£122.0m
Earnings per share:	36.9p	29.6p



PILKINGTON

Nato makes big changes in plans to counter Soviet attack

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Radical changes are being made in the style of operations of British and other allied forces, numbering 250,000 or more men, responsible for the defence of 124 miles of the border between East and West Germany.

This area, stretching roughly from Kassel in the south to Hamburg, includes the north German plain which is one of the most likely areas for a massive Soviet tank attack should war ever break out between Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

The changes are seen as the most important development in the fighting capability of Nato's Northern Army Group (NORTHAG) since West German forces joined Nato nearly 30 years ago.

The new concept of operations has been developed by General Sir Nigel Bagnall, who is about to relinquish command of Northag in order to become, at the end of next month, the professional head of the British Army as Chief of the General Staff.

It is seen as being an outstanding achievement by him to have secured the agreement of the West German, Dutch, Belgian and British military commands and defence ministries to his new concept.

In the event of war, Nato is committed to a policy of forward defence, meeting and defeating an attack as close as possible to the border between East and West Germany.

Northag has been organized in such a way that each of the four national corps of which it is formed — one each from West Germany, Belgium, Holland and Britain — in effect would fight a separate corps battle.

There has been little scope for the army group commander to use his forces as a co-ordinated whole. This has been because most reserves have been controlled by the corps commanders, because there has been little or no provision for forces to cross the various corps boundaries.

The thinking underlying General Bagnall's approach closely parallels that set out recently by Lieutenant-General Haig-Henning von Sandt, Chief of Staff of the West German Army. He said that in the past there had been an over-literal interpretation of forward defence, over-emphasizing a more static defence. In fact, forward defence required a high degree of mobility.

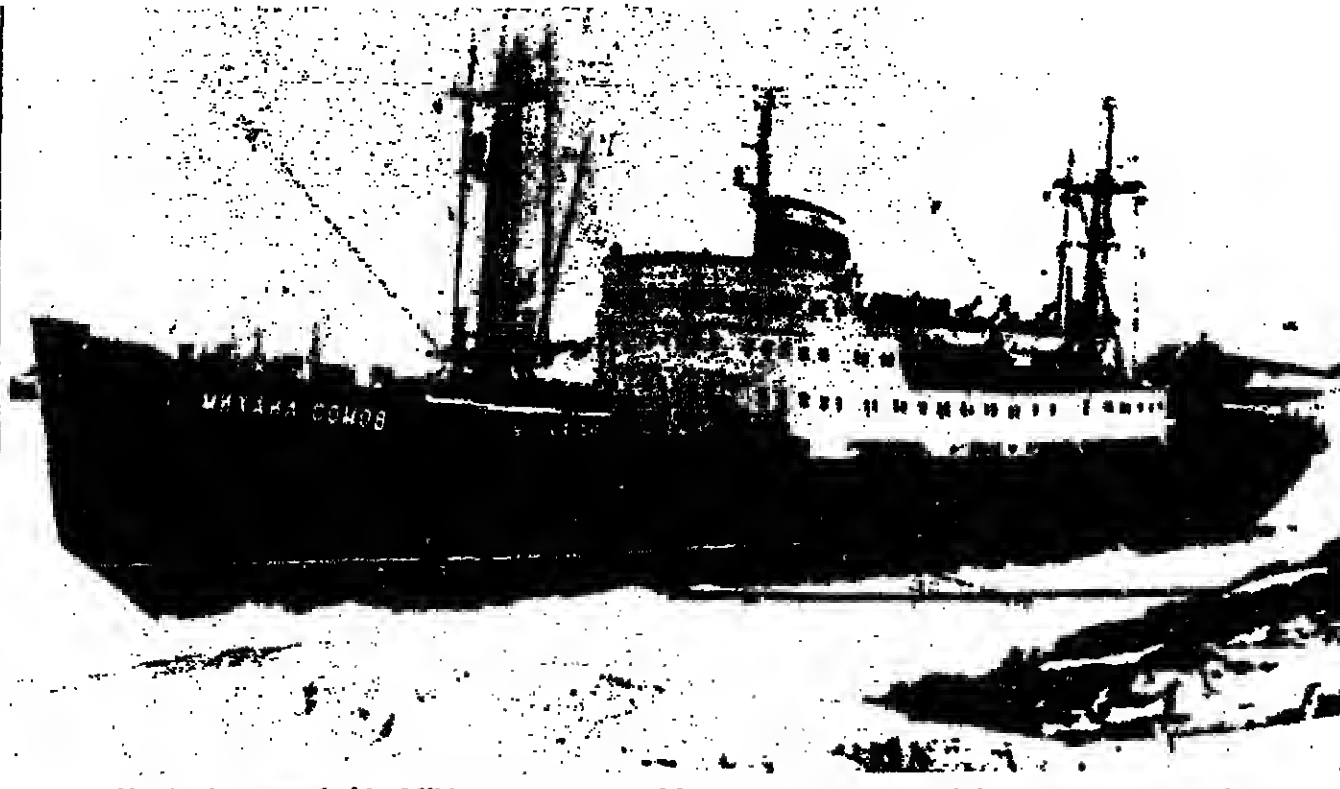
He gave a warning that at the beginning of a war it was likely that Nato would be in a weak position, facing the risk of early breakthroughs. To regain the initiative, the defender had to be able to conduct defensive operations or delaying actions or to launch counter-attacks.

As a result, much greater emphasis is now being placed on a more mobile defence, with defending forces having the ability to manoeuvre to seek large-scale actions in which enemy formations can be destroyed, or at least kept off balance. The essence of it is to maximize the impact of the defence's actions, rather than to dissipate its energies in piecemeal actions.

Fundamental to this concept is that, without any increase in overall resources available, the army group commander should be able to call on reserves of up to three divisions which can operate across corps boundaries to deliver a counter-stroke. At present, the reserves available to him are equivalent to only about one division.

The effect will be to make the four national corps much more interdependent.

Although all this is done on the initiative of General Bagnall, he is believed to have been greatly influenced by some aspects of the German conduct of operations during the Second World War, particularly on the Russian front.



The Soviet research ship, Mikhail Somov, trapped for two months in Antarctic ice. A rescue is planned.

Christian Democrats claim Italy's top job

From Peter Nichols Rome

The first step has been taken in the quest for the biggest prize in the Italian political system. The Christian Democrats have won the election to the Italian Parliament.

The head of state is elected by a joint session of his two Houses of Parliament, which has been set for June 24.

The value of the prize is less the powers that the office offers than the security of a seven-year mandate, although, even if the

powers are circumscribed by the constitution, they are by no means merely symbolic.

This is especially true after an energetic term of office like President Pertini's, which is drawing to its close. He showed that a forceful and popular personality could give the presidency greater real influence in public affairs than the constitutional definitions suggest.

It would not be easy to find a successor to this vigorous octogenarian, so much so that some people have proposed

solving the problem by asking him to stand for another seven years.

Signor Ciriaco de Mita, leader of the Christian Democrats, the country's largest party, ruled out the re-election of President Pertini in his statement, which said the president must be a Roman Catholic.

Signor de Mita referred to the tradition of a presidency which alternated between the lay and Christian Democrat interests. Moreover, the Socialists have in Signor Bettino Craxi the first

Socialist prime minister in the country's history and he looks set for a long stay. And the Christian Democrats now see logic in having a president who is not from the same party as the prime minister.

So the principal problem facing the Christian Democrats is who should be their candidate. At the moment the favourite is Signor Francesco Cossiga, the Senate's presiding officer. Under the constitution he is the second-highest authority in the country after the president.

Aquino murder trial

Evidence against Ver ruled out

From Keith Dalton, Manila

A Philippines court yesterday disallowed the introduction of crucial evidence against armed forces chief General Fabian Ver upon which he was indicted with 25 others in connection with the 1983 murder of Benigno Aquino, the opposition leader.

The prosecution's evidence against General Ver was his own testimony, given over a three-day period last year to a fact-finding board which subsequently concluded that he, Manila's police chief and six soldiers had attempted to cover up the Aquino murder.

But in a five-page resolution the three-member court ruled that their testimony could not be used as evidence against them, effectively paving the way for their eventual acquittal, court observers said.

An emergency meeting of prosecution lawyers is to be held today "to assess the damage", a spokesman said. General Ver's lawyer, Mr Antonio Coronel, said he would

file a motion to dismiss the case against the general.

He and his co-accused are charged as accessories to the airport slaying of Aquino, while General Luther Custodio, who was in charge of airport security, and 16 soldiers are accused of the actual murder. A civilian has been named as an accomplice.

Mr Aquino was shot dead while in military custody moments after his plane landed. A 32-year-old business woman, Mrs Rebecca Quijano, has told the court she saw a soldier shoot Mr Aquino in the back of the head.

The military claims that the assassin was Ralando Galman, an alleged Communist gunman, whom soldiers shot dead.

Manila's police chief, Major General Prospero Olivares, who was in charge of the assassination investigation, was charged as an accessory after the board complained that he tried to mislead them as to the murder weapon.

Rugby tour resignation

Wellington (AP) — New Zealand's top rugby union commentator yesterday resigned his job with the state-owned Broadcasting Corporation because he would not accept an assignment to South Africa next month. Radio New Zealand reported.

Mr John Howson, who has broadcast all of the major matches played by the All

Blacks in the past decade, said he was given a 24-hour ultimatum to agree to go to South Africa or face dismissal.

Mr Howson said his decision not to go was based on personal reasons. "I said at the time (the decision to go was made) that the tour was not in the best interests of rugby."

Public opinion in New Zealand is strongly divided

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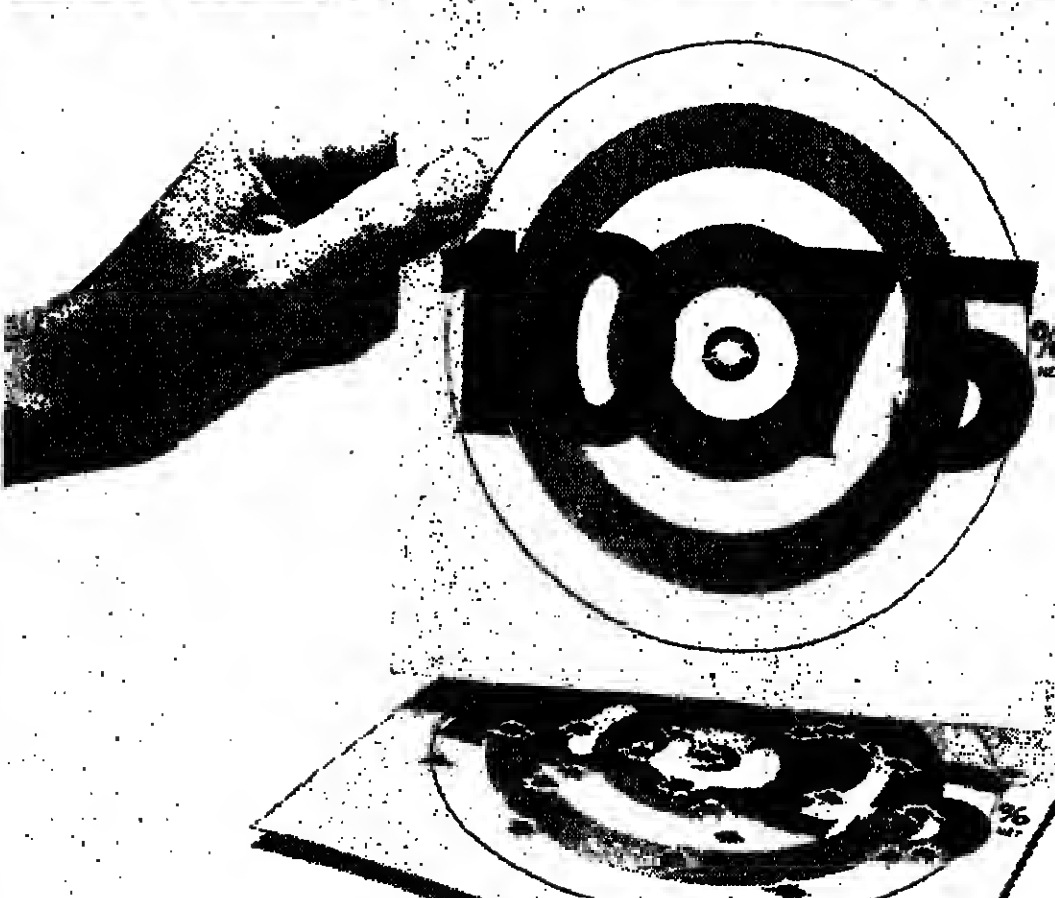
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ABBNEY NATIONAL HIGHER INTEREST ACCOUNT



Priest who preferred to be mayor

From Peter Nichols Rome

The vote-gathering skills of Don Domenico Sicari at last month's local government elections have now brought him the post of mayor in the Calabrian town of Crotone, but not him his job as priest.

He was elected mayor on Tuesday night after one of the briefest speeches surely ever made by a successful candidate in the highly oratorical south. He would promise nothing, he told his supporters, because the poor region of Calabria had already had enough of promises. But he would change the way their town was administered.

Certainly his victory gives him the basis for change. His entry into politics in the Communist list brought the left to power and halved the vote of the Christian Democrats, the official Catholic party. His presence doubled the Communist vote.

His bishop had suspended him *ad divinis* from his priestly functions as soon as it was known that he had accepted candidature in the local elections. But he had already differed fundamentally with his bishop to the point that a year ago he resigned his parish.

Asked whether he preferred to be mayor or a priest he replied that being a priest he never intended to leave it simply meant respect and reverence. It was the same now with the post of mayor. He wanted as ever to be close to the people and to create something new for all of them.

Asked if power was attractive to him he replied: "That now is not in my vocabulary."

Wellington budget cuts deficit

From W. P. Reeves Wellington

Mr Roger Douglas, the New Zealand Minister of Finance, last night justified his firm monetarist stance in a Budget presentation which forecasted a dramatic fall in the fiscal deficit.

The forecast is for a 1985-86 deficit before borrowing of NZ\$1,286 million (about £460m), or 2.8 per cent of gross domestic product compared with NZ\$2,800 million (8.8 per cent) last year. Estimated revenue is NZ\$1,609 million and expenditure NZ\$1,738 million.

The reduction has been achieved by tight restraint on Government spending and a somewhat fortuitous rise in tax receipts reflecting a minor boom which may now be coming to its end. Apart from a minor adjustment for those receiving superannuation payments who won a tax easement, the Budget neither gave nor took away.

Mr Douglas said he would make a statement later in the year on taxation. He is expected to detail a comprehensive goods and services tax.

Mr Douglas defended his speedy introduction of new measures last year when Labour replaced the National Party Government of Sir Robert Muldoon and dismantled its market encumbrances to free the dollar.

He conceded that the adjustment had caused initial problems in terms of higher inflation and interest rates, which he expected the lower deficit to counter and said the measures had been necessary to halt the drift toward an economic backwater.

Papua curfew imposed to halt rape terror

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

The Papua New Guinea capital of Port Moresby goes under curfew from tonight as a government-imposed state of emergency comes into force after a series of rapes.

The state of emergency will extend police powers and the defence forces will be called out as part of an attempt to curtail rising lawlessness.

Mr Michael Somare, the Prime Minister, said that law reached a point that threatened the lives and safety of a large number of citizens.

The decision to impose the emergency was taken by Parliament on Wednesday night after seven rapes in the past six days, including that of a 17-year-old woman and her 17-year-old daughter by seven youths who broke into their Port Moresby house.

A 17-year-old Papua New Guinea woman was raped by 10 men at a bus stop in the coastal town of Lae as she returned home from the cinema.

Mr Somare said the threat from criminals had spread rapidly and police no longer could control it using their normal powers.

"Robbery, murder and rape have become almost commonplace events. The crime wave is of nature and extent that it threatens the security of every citizen."

The curfew is expected to last from 9pm until 5am, although the exact times will be decided by the police commissioner.

Mr Somare has said he wants legislation to allow the cabinet to order the public hanging of people convicted of gang rape, rape of children or in rape cases where the victim is murdered. The other proposal being aired is the possibility of castrating rapists.

Port Moresby and other places have witnessed a steady rise in crime in recent years as tribesmen from outlying areas flock to urban centres in search of work and bright light.

ity three abandon fair trial

Boyes, Warsaw

further that the sentence one of the signatories (August) agreement being ruled out of order. Incensed, he broke defence speech and made evidence against me useless. The indictment provoked here, and the

The trial, viewed as important because of the lifting of martial law drawn by the defendants, his embezzlement in the Warsaw matter in talks with the Polish prime minister, Italian Prime Minister Craxi, have pleaded three men.

Mr Frosynuk, who longest defence speech day — some three — expressed the view that their sympathies lay with the Catholic Church, suggesting that the trial was acting on power lines from Warsaw as an independent body.

The court, he said, "clearly received the authorities to me the rigours imposed, December 13 (1984) martial law was imposed, cannot count on any of this court."

On Wednesday, he said, "the court had described the trial as 'the worst political trial in the history of Poland'."

mounts le family

Johnson, Bonn

machinery firm at the gave an interview to a paper, the *Frankfurter Allgemeine*.

He denied that he had misled the public the years in any way he have prevented Mengele's escape. "The only late not laid by Nazi laws (Simoni) Wessental (Beate Klarsfeld) here as saying.

Asked why the last not announced early Mengele had died in 1979, he replied: "We agreed nothing. We didn't want the necks of people who our uncle for 30 years in 'no longer sure today' of this withholding of it has been right."

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Some magazine has claimed that Herr Jens nlos, son by another late Mengele's first wife, offered to sell the late Mengele's fugitive father later said the family a more time to think as Herr Huelken has a having made the offer.

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THE ARTS

Cinema

Evocations of avian ecstasy

Birdy (15)
Odeon Haymarket

Silver City (15)
Chelsea Cinema;
Screen-on-Baker-Street

She'll Be Wearing Pink Pyjamas (15)
Classic Haymarket;
Gate Bloomsbury

A View to a Kill (PG)
Odeon Leicester Square

The Glenn Miller Story (U)
Screen-on-the-Hill

Even if his films have rarely realized his potential gifts, Alan Parker is indisputably outstanding among the generation of British directors who have emerged since the late Seventies. (His first feature, *Bugsy Malone*, appeared in 1976.) Working with the producer Alan Marshall and a regular, favourite camera and editing unit, Parker demonstrates a level of professionalism and precise craftsmanship that is exceptional beside today's general run of approximate, television-acquired standards. His genuine passion for his *metier* usually saves him from mere slickness. As a story-teller, he knows perfectly how to grab and hold and manipulate an audience. More important, he has a quite un-British lack of reserve and inhibition, which gave the exhilaration to the best moments of *Bugsy Malone* and *Fame* and equips him to understand the obsessive hero of *Birdy*.

The pseudonymous William Wharton's 1979 novel, from which *Birdy* is adapted, is a self-conscious literary exercise, using two narrative tracks (distinguished by Roman and italic typography) to follow the memories—sometimes parallel, sometimes contradictory—of the two main characters. Casualties of war—one physically disabled, the other mentally disordered—they look back on the adventures and friendship of teenage in a blue-collar district of Philadelphia. *Birdy* is the sensitive, imaginative one with a consuming fascination with birds and their behaviour in his mental derangement he appears

finally to have metamorphosed himself into a bird. Al, concerned with body-building and the tough image required by his Italian-American background, loyally tries to tag along with Birdy's crazy schemes and determination to fly with his pet canaries.

The adaptation (by Sandy Kroopf and Jack Behr) clearly presented problems: as Parker says in an interesting brochure on the making of the film, there are no italics in movies. Apart from the possibilities of dream sequences, the film demands externalization of the action. The negative consequence of this is that we can no longer really enter into the crazed rationale of Birdy's fantasy. On the other hand, the friendship of the two boys now assumes greater prominence, and is developed with touching intensity.

There is a certain "so-what?" factor in the novel: once we have been convinced of the boy's avian obsession there is not much else but variations on the theme. The "so-what?" factor applies in the film too, and the writers' attempt to combat it by overweighing the metaphors of the world's injustice, and by pushing simple Al out of character to monumentalize philosophically and lengthily on the war, is no solution. As unprofitably, they have updated the story from the second World War to Vietnam.

In the novel the compensation is the writing—skilful, humorous and engaging even at its most pretentious. In the film, too, the attraction is not what is done but the incidentals of the way it is done. Parker's feeling evocation of the oo man's land of poor Philadelphia; his ability to evoke the ecstasy of Birdy's dreams of escaping on the wing; virtuoso sequences like the finely-staged confrontation between Birdy and Al's father and Birdy's haunting dream flight (a technical masterpiece).

The playing of Nicholas Cage as Al and Matthew Modine as Birdy (growing, with every glance of the eye or movement of the body, progressively more bird-like) is always admirable, though most notably in the demanding hospital scenes where Birdy is catatonic and Al is bandaged until he is left with only one eye and a locked jaw. Each in his way is as funny and sad, and each performance subtly complements the other. Apart from the heavy-handed interpretation of the hospital psychiatrist by John Harkins, the supporting performances, including several by cleverly-cast non-professionals, are as excellent.

The Australian *Silver City* is a distinguished feature debut by Sophia Turkiewicz, who directed and also cowrote the film with Thomas Kenally.

It is rooted in reminiscence. In 1950, when she was three, Turkiewicz and her mother arrived in Australia as refugees from Poland. In the film she tells the story of a young woman who arrives alone off the boat from Europe and is put into an immigrants' camp known ironically, on account of its aluminium-painted Nissen huts, as "Silver City".

Like the rest she experiences the hostility, incomprehension, unconscious cruelty and occasional kindness of the country's population and foreign contacts. She falls in love with a fellow immigrant, a somewhat unstable married man, and suffers desperately when he returns to his wife. The film begins and ends with the meeting of the couple, years after these events, when both have become absorbed into Australian life and society.

Turkiewicz (who studied in Poland, observing Wajda and Zanussi, after graduating from the Australian Film School) captures the time and place uncannily well. In their bearing and costumes and characters the people in the camp could well come out of some European film of the late Forties.

A very handsomely mounted production, stylishly photographed by Chris Cole, *Silver City* succeeds at once as an affecting, bitter-sweet romance and as a no less deeply-felt commentary on the immigrant issue: the war had revealed the inadequacy of the country's population and industrial capacity. The most remarkable aspect of the film however is the presence and performance of the young Polish emigrant actress Gosia Dobrowolska, who brings a special radiance and resonance (maybe the echo of her own experience) to the central role.

She'll Be Wearing Pink Pyjamas, directed by John Goldschmidt from a script by Eva Hardy, is really "Steaming Goes West". There is a similar assorted group of women from different social situations (even including a dominating mother and daughter as in Nell Dunn's scenario) who are thrown together, talk out their problems and neuroses, and finally discover strength through sisterhood.

The going is tougher here, though: the characters embark on the first outward bound-style endurance course for women, located in the beautiful but perilous terrain of the Lake District. The scenery is lovely, but Goldschmidt's shooting of it is rather pedestrian.

The point is less the story than the self-revelation of the women. No male author would dare show women so fearful and neurotic, so obsessed with sex and unable to cope with it, as Eva Hardy's characters reveal themselves. The consolation is that a week of



Subtly complementary: Nicholas Cage (left) and Matthew Modine in the demanding hospital scene of *Birdy*

solidarity on the fells is made to appear a magic cure-all. Julie Walters (whose extraordinary strength and intensity) inevitably dominates the group, but there are some character performances, notably by Janet Henfrey as a sweet, dogged spinster headmistress.

A View to a Kill dutifully serves up the required James Bond formula: exotic locations (Swiss Alps, an Icelandic glacier, Chantilly, Paris); beautiful and dangerous women (Grace Jones, Tanya Roberts, Fiona Fullerton); a demonic villain (icily smiling Christopher Walken); seductions in well-plumbed showers; dastardly plots of destruction on cosmic scale; a cheerful conviction that the Western World is already in a state of open war with the Soviet Union.

Film by film the writing gets more turgid, the characters more cardboard and James Bond, alias Roger Moore,

older and older; but criticism seems irrelevant to this kind of industrial product, calculated to the precise demands of a market.

More than thirty years on, *The Glenn Miller Story* is revived, restored and fitted up with the stereophonic soundtrack which was recorded at the time but never used because of the difficulties of equipping theatres in 1954. The track does full justice to the music, which skilfully recreated the Glenn Miller sound, and in particular to the famous brief but magical jam session with Louis Armstrong, Gene Krupa *et al*. Beyond that the picture boasts a lot of period charm, and forgotten skills like William Daniels' photography, which is most notable in the concert shots at the end. James Stewart and June Allyson provide their most attractive performances.

David Robinson

Theatre

Figaro
Ambassadors

Following John Wells's splendid Radio 3 version of Beaumarchais's play, this is the second attempt in the past week to break the operatic monopoly on *The Marriage of Figaro* and restore it to theatre-lovers at large.

Nobody is going to sit through Tony Bruden and Nick Broadhurst's "musical comedy" all agog to hear how some jettied larynx is going to clear the hurdles of "Non piu andrai" and "Dove sooo", if only for the reason that Mozart has been rescored for a parlour quartet, and the cast is made up of actors who happen to be able to sing a bit. With the exception of Lesley Duff as the Countess, the sound of trained voices soaring beyond the dramatic context into independent musical expression is entirely absent from the entertainment.

What it demonstrates is that, musically, Mozart is well able to survive conditions that allow him to display his powers as a master dramatist; and that *The Marriage of Figaro* is well able to hold its own with *Oklahoma!*

The adapters have simplified matters for the company by cutting most of the recitative and replacing it with brisk and sometimes unprintable modern dialogue. The changes do not end there. Barbarina and Don Curzio have gone, along with the entire Bartolo-Marcellina subplot, leaving Michael Sadler's Basilio (a green-suited smoothie with a repulsive smirk) hanging on as the sole survivor of the supporting domestic staff, except where he doubles as the Count's enraged gardener.

The setting is evidently some pre-revolutionary outpost of the 1960s, where upstet DA haircuts, scamed stockings and cocktail dresses merge with silk waistcoats and traditional servant costume. Claudia Mayer's

reversible louvered screens move the action from the bedroom and the boudoir to the garden with minimum fuss, and simply by means of decorative suggestion. What they present is a fantasy world in which the feudal convention of the piece can be expressed in the language of today.

From what I have seen of *The Marriage of Figaro*, every production generates its own central character; and this time it is the turn of the Count. The limitation of Stephen Tate's performance is its lack of aristocratic poise. From his greedily undignified overtures to Susanna to his homicidal approach to Cherubino with a sledgehammer, he comes over as a gross, overbearing fool. Such, however, is the line.

The other performances need no special pleading. They are all beautiful cast physically. Miss Duff, with her downturned mouth and slightly thickening figure, gives a sadly plausible

image of the girl who used to be Rosina, and you can see the Count's point when it comes to Prue Clark's Susanna, sharp, trim and ceaselessly mischievous, whether querying the Countess's turns of phrase in the letter or taking Cherubino's trousers down.

Janet Dibley's Cherubino, an androgynous beauty in red waistcoat and pin-stripes, undergirds the opening pangs of love in the usual romantic manner and then tucks up in the garden, jazziily humming an extract from "Voi che sapete", and proceeds to goose the disguised Countess. Terence Hillyer for once puts Figaro on the receiving end of much of the comedy; his big clown's face crumpled into a grin of panic, improvising his way out of trouble with his back to the wall. It may not be everybody's idea of Figaro, but it keeps you on the edge of your seat.

Irving Wardle

Concert

Sprightly on the attack

ASMF/Marriner
Festival Hall

This was an evening in aid of the Solicitors' Benevolent Association: not perhaps an alluring prospect for those who feel as benevolent to solicitors as I do. Still, it offered the relatively unusual musical promise of a full-scale orchestral concert by the Academy of St Martin.

This is an enlarged chamber group rather than a streamlined symphony orchestra, and as such admirably suited to Schubert's Ninth Symphony, with which they finished. The clarity and cleanliness which marks all the Academy's playing was not at all diminished by the use of nearly two dozen violins: the unanimity and whiter-than-white attack was

notable throughout, and force was added by Tristan Fry's biting, brittle timpani (amazing what an edge one hard drum stroke can give to an ensemble).

Neville Marriner's way with the symphony is certainly sprightly, and at times even breathless: the climaxes were all accurately marked, but at moments of stress he tends simply to increase the energy and the dynamism, instead of doing anything about the depth of sound. This may partly result from his constant attention to the upper parts—the brilliance became rather curd at times—and his neglect of the bass lines, which provide both harmonic weight and direction.

It was good to hear such sharply dotted rhythms in the first movement, and to have the finale swept along with such exuberance, but several of the

oboe solos sounded uncomfortable (unlike the clarinet solos, in which a second-generation Marriner excelled) and it looked odd to use only the second player at each string desk in the Scherzo's trio.

In the first half there was a rather shrill and weightless account of Beethoven's "Egmont" Overture, and a puzzling performance of Schumann's Piano Concerto from Radu Lupu, full of interesting side-lights and moments that did not sustain themselves. And I am still waiting for a vision of the first movement cadenza that really makes sense: Lupu pounded down the bass octaves to great effect, but the treble chords splashed around without any conviction. A packed audience was benevolent to the whole concert.

Nicholas Kenyon

Jazz

Betty Carter
Ronnie Scott's

Since she relies on neither of the fashionable tactics of open-heart surgery or comfortable eclecticism, the ovations that are greeting Betty Carter during her present London season may be considered something of a miracle. Time's attritional effort on the likes of Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan is at last persuading the spotlight to illuminate a remarkable artist who, while hanging around in the wings since the middle 1950s, has developed the most formidable technique possessed by any jazz singer. Long the object of an admiring cult, her time may have come at last.

Her unmistakable silhouette—feet planted wide as if to anchor the beat, back arched in an echo of her curving phrases, hands gesturing like Thai dancer to point the text—will become more familiar as audiences acquire the taste for her range of astringent tones and for the rhythmic brinkmanship that allows her to stretch the arc of a note until the tension crackles.

She remains faithful to songs whose inner mechanisms she has been exploring for years, and we enjoyed the purring swing of Raymond Mapp's "Fool Play", a dizzying 5/4 treatment of "What a Little Moonlight Can Do" and a hushed "Every Time We Say Goodbye". A medley of "Dearly Beloved" and "Blue Moon" seethed with suppressed power,

and the strange sourness of glancing quarter-tones edged the mordant irony of her view of "The Good Life".

As always, too, she has brought a trio of gifted young players. Benny Green is a pianist with a liquid touch and a responsive ear. Tariq Shah prefers the steadfast bass lines and broad tone of a Paul Chambers to the fancy-pants antics of later generations, and Winard Harper's drums swing and shade the music with fine precision and a range of pretty timbres. What they share—Miss Carter, too—is an ability to sit back on the beat and create a massive collective drive, whether the volume is rattling the jaw or barely rippling the curtains.

Richard Williams

Television

Shifty demeanours

David Mellor, the Home Office Minister concerned with the new legislation being framed to control experiments on animals, regarded his decisions as invidious and difficult. On TV Eye (ITV) last night he was almost the only interviewee to admit an area of incompatibility between the consensus of sympathetic public feeling towards laboratory animals and the genuine needs of medical science and consumer safety.

The programme estimates that 3½ million experiments on animals are conducted in Britain each year—a figure which has come down from 5½ million eight years ago thanks to pressure from animal rights activists. That pressure also made it difficult for the programme-makers to find experimenters in the commercial sector willing to allow cameras into their laboratories, and undoubtedly contributed to the shifty, defensive demeanour of many of the scientists interviewed.

However wandering their gaze, their conviction did not seem to falter, not even in the case of the Glasgow University professor who imported tissue from brain-damaged baboons from the University of Pennsylvania for his research—and continued to do so after animal liberationists made public a horrific videotape showing how the animals were deliberately brain-damaged.

It was, in general, not a night for the squeamish. Later on Rachel and the Roarettes (BBC2) told the tale of a publican's daughter whose affections were alienated from her wallified, but oppressive, fiancé by Rachel, a swash-buckling hiko-dyke who popped into the bar to borrow a spoon and kept metamorphosing into a dashing highwayman in eighteenth-century principal-boy garb.

The writer of this musical play, Jude Alderson of the Sadists Sisters, had a roguish way with lyrics like "the faceless enemy, prejudice, is waiting at the gate", but could not resist tucking a sequence of squawking birth in a bivouac on Houslow Heath into the scenario, for no apparent reason other than to add a little Greenham Common chic to the story.

I doubt the cause of feminism is best served by suggesting that a woman's destiny is a straight choice between a white wedding, rite of passage into an oppressive social system, or black leather, brave badge of courage and freedom. I also doubt, reluctantly, that there is an actress who can command a convincing swagger on screen—in the title role Josie Lawrence cut much dash but still had a sort of Emma Peel hesitancy about the fight scenes.

Celia Brayfield

Opera
Drama or comedy?

Così fan tutte
Grand Théâtre, Geneva

This should have been an outstanding *Così fan tutte*. With some of the most promising Mozart singers on the international stage, an inspiring conductor and an intelligent director, the production package had flair and freshness, two qualities that have recently become the trademark of opera at Geneva. As if to fuel expectations further, the management chose this production to launch an experiment in broadening the Grand Théâtre's audience, by relaying the last of seven performances live, to 4,000 starved opera-lovers before a giant screen nearby.

But neither *Così* nor the production technique of François Rochaix are the stuff of popular opera. The stage is framed by Ezio Toffolutti's single set, a succession of proscenium arches advancing in architectural style and fresco design from the classical era to the present day. It gives Rochaix the open working area he needs to focus attention on the text, aided by a series of elongated mobile screens that break the stage into flexible spaces, shapes and perspectives. For him the very balance of the work precludes the need for visual symmetry, and at the final curtain the couples find themselves at a total loss to know with whom each should re-unite.

The approach seems original, even daring. Comedy or drama? Rochaix refuses to commit himself to either side of the delicately balanced coin devised by Mozart and Da Ponte, suggesting all along that life's choices may not be quite as clear-cut as the opera's authors suppose. But the risk in staging a do-it-yourself *Così* of such ambiguity and intellectual rigour is to reduce the circle of fun and seriousness to something more tepid, with both humanity and humour in short supply.

Claudio Desderi, whose Alfonso is known from Glyndebourne, dominated this ensemble with a superb performance, omnipotent as impresario and stage manager, too vivid and youthful philosopher. The timbre is warm and versatile, the mastery of *recitativo* nuance and vocal acting as near-perfect as Bruscantini's. Ruth Ann Swanson's Despina, with whom Alfonso appeared to have an unusually intimate liaison, is a heaven-sent gift to the opera stage, a lovely actress and a



Anne Sofie von Otter: someone for Covent Garden to look forward to

spinner of an "endless string of beautiful notes: a real discovery." Of the three Swedish singers in the cast, Anne Sofie von Otter and Hakan Hagggard fared better than Gösta Winbergh, who is no stage comedian, and whose "tenor" currently sounds dry and over-worked. Hagggard's handsome Guglielmo was persuasive: the voice is honest, lyrical and masculine, and he uses it without the slightest trace of effort. In Miss von Otter, Covent Garden has a Dorabella and Cherubino to look forward to next season. Her appearance is statuesque and easy, her smile saucy and seductive. In her first aria she displayed one of her most valuable qualities as an operatic singer, a willingness to take liberties with the musical text to make music and character come alive as one. Barbara Madra was her ungratifying elder sister. The chorus—consistently the weakest part of the Geneva Opera—was amateurish.

The contribution from the pit was of the highest order, bracing in tempo and nervous energy, soft-grained in texture, elegantly phrased and articulated. The performance anguished well for Armin Jordan, who takes over as chief conductor of the erratic Suisse Romande Orchestra in September, and who proved on this occasion that the pit, and not the stage, is the surest barometer of emotions in *Così*.

Andrew Clark

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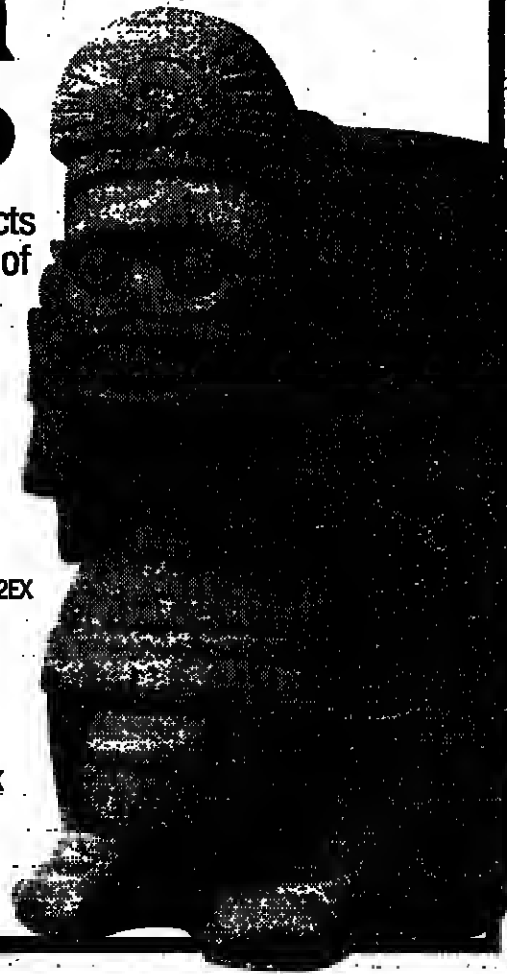
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Celia Brayne



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SPECTRUM

Rocketing into the space race

Europe is nosing ahead in the commercial star wars with a strong rival to the US shuttle. Pearce Wright, Science Editor, reports on the remarkable success of the Ariane launch vehicles

In one of the most remarkable success stories of the decade, European scientists have broken the grip on space shared by the United States and Russia. The family of Ariane launch vehicles, funded mainly by France, has a waiting list of 25 satellites to launch some of the for customers who have switched from the US shuttle because of delays.

And design teams in Britain and France, working independently are planning new versions of reusable spacecraft, which could take scientists into space at a far lower cost than the \$15,000 million cost of the American shuttle programme.

Ten years ago, when the European Space Agency was formed, such achievements seemed unthinkable. The superpowers seemed insuperable in space. Only five years ago, when the first US shuttle was launched, the future for Europe looked gloomy.

European rocket technology was still based on the development of expendable engines, which were jettisoned after placing a payload into orbit. With the advent of the shuttle, from which astronauts were able to place satellites into space, expendable rocket technology looked as if it would rapidly go out of date before the European Space Agency would put its system to the test.

Indeed, if the highest hopes of the designers and engineers had been realized, the shuttle would have made satellite launching such a cheap operation that no other satellite technology would have got a look in.

A new chapter in space exploration opened when the American astronauts, John W. Young and Robert L. Crippen, brought the reusable orbiter vehicle of the shuttle system safely back to earth four years ago. Nothing can detract from the fantastic achievements of the shuttle. The next flight on Monday will push the frontiers of space exploration and technology further still, in a mission that carries on board a Spacelab package.

Nevertheless, if the shuttle system had met its most ambitious targets, the next launch would have been the 40th. In fact it is the 18th. Before the first launch, NASA was boldly forecasting 500

shuttle flights by the end of the decade, and that was a reduction on the original 725 'planned' for 1980-1991. The reality of operating the system has led to a revised figure which falls a long way short of the early optimism. A failure to keep within costs and schedules has imposed an expensive penalty. The American programme has fallen far behind.

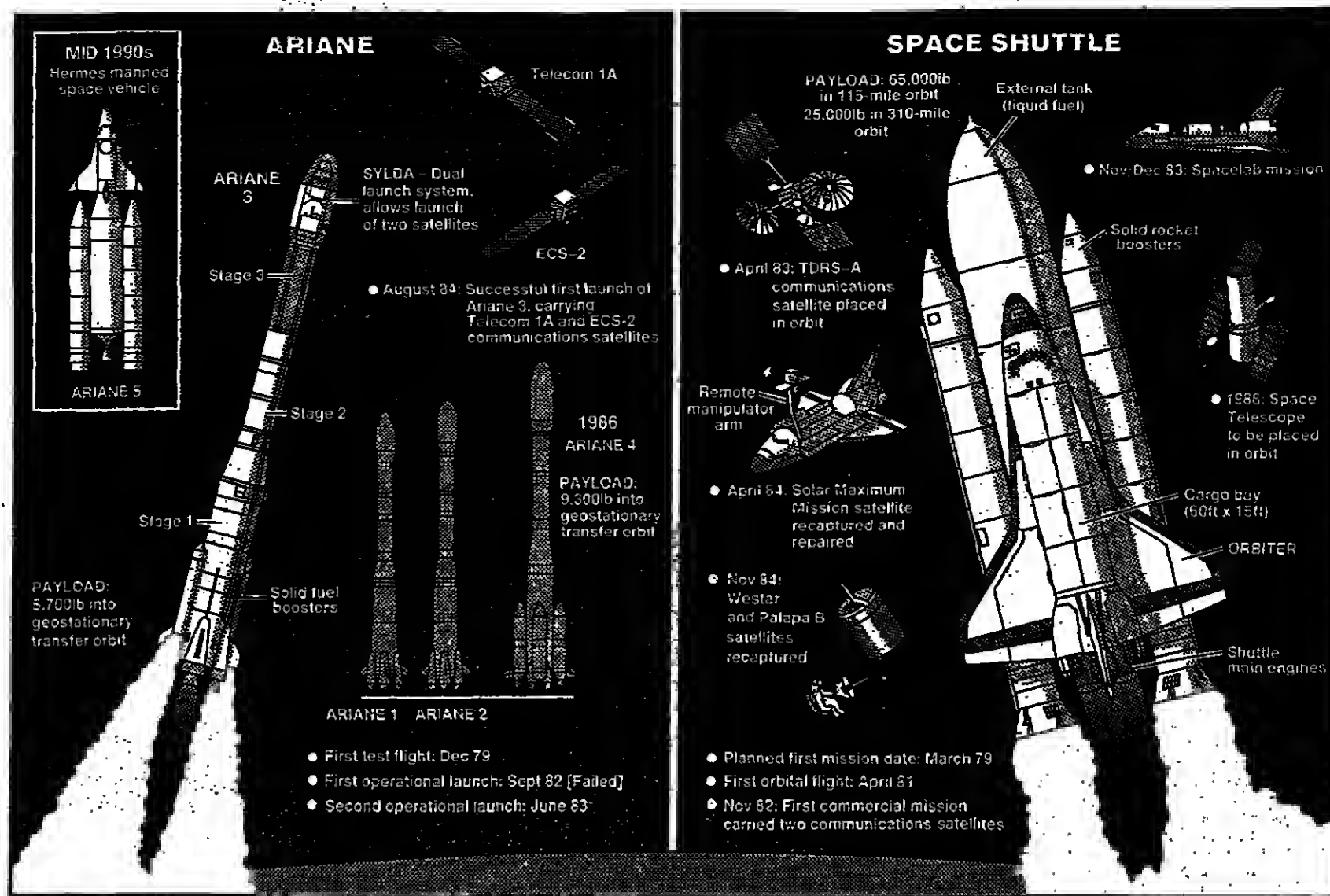
The proper name for the shuttle is the STS (space transportation system). It was chosen by NASA to emphasize the object of the exercise: cheap, easy and rapid access to earth orbit. The technical troubles of its protective covering of tiles

(providing a heat shield), and of perfecting the engine performance, were costly.

NASA designers first dubbed it the "space truck", their aim being to produce a system which would bring the price of placing one pound weight payload into orbit down to \$100. In the first few years of the space programme, that cost was about \$1 million. By the time of the American Apollo moon-landings it had been reduced to about \$10,000. The present figure is nearer \$1,000; and that is one which the European Ariane vehicles can match.

We are now in the age of space commercialization. Of the different aspects of space technology that have evolved, satellites for communications, weather forecasts and earth surveys are the ones which are commercially and socially beneficial.

Yet as many as 200 more civilian satellites will be launched within the next 15 years at an estimated cost of \$20,000 million. There are many other commercial applications of space with potential for manufacturing and research, using the shuttle equipment. Some estimates predict a market approaching \$50,000 million over the next decade. That represents the total com-



ARIANE

- First commercial alternative to the US shuttle
- Classic launch vehicle
- Price-per-launch expected to stay stable
- Simpler methods of manoeuvring satellites
- Launch eased by low latitude of equator site

European banks and CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales), the French national space agency.

France is the organization's largest shareholder, controlling just under 60 per cent of the shares. Its president is M. Frederic d'Allest, who is also director-general of CNES, the organization from which the French drive came for the development of Ariane.

Now well-established, with the successful operation of scientific and commercial satellites launched either by the American rockets or Ariane, the European Space Agency was formed by merging the battered baby of the space industry, the European Launcher Development Organisation (ELDO), and the European Space Re-

SHUTTLE

- Organisation with 27 years experience
- Most advanced launch system available
- Possibility of retrieving a faulty satellite
- A future assured by NASA investment
- Ability to place larger payloads into orbit

search Organisation (ESRO). In the early days of both there was constant conflict between the member-nations about funding.

The most divisive question was on the building of a launch vehicle that would give independence from the United States. There was a view, expressed most strongly by the French, that America would ultimately be reluctant to provide launching facilities for television, telephone, and communications satellites which would conflict with her own commercial interests.

Yet it was the British Government, from whom the initiative came for the creation of ELDO, who, six years after its formation, reneged on the venture. After abortive attempts

SPACE SHUTTLE

- PAYLOAD: 65,000lb in 115-mile orbit
- External tank (liquid fuel)
- Solid rocket boosters
- Nov-Dec 83: Spacelab mission
- April 83: TDRS-A communications satellite placed in orbit
- April 84: Solar Maximum Mission satellite repaired and repaired
- Nov 84: Westar and Palapa B satellites recaptured
- Planned first mission date: March 79
- First orbital flight: April 81
- Nov 82: First commercial mission carried two communications satellites

to get the Europa rocket into service, the enterprise withered in 1973.

On the other hand, ESRO gave scientists in Europe a collaborative organization through which they could pool limited money and resources for space exploration. Their spacecraft were launched by US rockets. After a shaky start, ESRO had eight of its satellites launched between 1968 and 1972 by America.

When the European space effort was reorganized under the ESA umbrella, the member-states could choose to pay the bulk of their contributions into particular types of technology, although a minimum mandatory contribution was levied for some projects.

It was this arrangement

which allowed the British Government to restrict its payments for development of launch vehicles, and that is why this country has only a 2.4 per cent shareholding in Ariane-space.

Building the Ariane was the biggest European space programme of the decade and it has cost \$500 million. The Ariane is a family of launch vehicles, and French specialists at CNES are working already on a new design for the 1990s, called Ariane 5. Approval for the project was given more than 10 years ago and the first test flight was on December 24, 1979. The second, which failed, was on May 23, 1980. The third on June 19, 1981; and the fourth on December 20, 1981.

The last flight of Ariane 1 is expected this year, and the calendar of missions for next year includes the first launch of the Ariane 4 version, with its increased lift. The launch system under preparation by the CNES for Ariane 5, for the mid-1990s, will launch not only

heavyweight satellite payloads but a vehicle that can be "manoeuvred" to launch France's proposed Hermes, a small, manned, shuttle vehicle. It is a programme of which M d'Allest is a fervent advocate.

The European launchings are from the French space centre at Kourou in French Guiana. Although tropically hot and humid, its position two degrees north of the equator makes it an ideal launch site for placing satellites into the geostationary orbit (22,250 miles above the equator) and for launching rockets which can travel 3,000km without passing over land.

Ever since the manned space programme began, there has been a strong body of thought that anything that has to be done in space can be done more easily and cheaply without people. That opinion has been expressed particularly forcefully by scientists who in the past could have built many more unmanned scientific satellites

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'There would be no unmanned space flights'

for the price of putting an astronaut into space.

At about the time Neil Armstrong made history by reaching the moon, the decision was reached that NASA's civilian space programme would employ reusable launch vehicles. There would be no space flights without people.

In fact, NASA has had to modify that position because of the delays with the shuttle. The US Department of Defence has reinstated an expendable rocket launch project, based on the Titan rockets, to run parallel with the shuttle, because of some of the shortcomings in the reusable vehicle's performance.

Such problems are now reflected in Ariane's negotiations with insurers in Europe and America to improve what it sees as unfair premiums for satellites launched by Ariane. The company feels it is being forced to pay for insurance losses on the mis-launches by the shuttle of the Palapa B-2 and Westar-6 satellites, and for the recent failure of Syncom IV-3 and the earlier TDRS-A, also shuttle-launched.

Insurance firms are reckoning to have lost about \$200 million on shuttle launches.

Illustration by John Grimwade

Army dissent is behind the Pakistan 'coup' trial, reports a special correspondent

General Zia and a case for concern

Built in the 16th century, Attock Fort, which lies on the left bank of the Indus in Pakistan's Punjab province, is famous not for its historical origins but for its modern use as a maximum security military prison.

A special military court has just concluded its secret trial in a barrack hall in this grim fort in which 14 military officers and three others have been accused of plotting to overthrow the country's military ruler, General Zia ul-Haq. A verdict is expected this month.

Ironically, it was in the same hall, in 1979, that a newly promoted general - Zia ul-Haq - presided over a trial of army officers charged with planning a coup d'état against the democratically elected government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. When sentencing these officers to heavy terms of imprisonment, Zia is reported to have sermonized on the need for military subordination to civilian authority for the survival of democracy. It was partly in recognition of his services during this trial that Bhutto promoted Zia over the heads of several other generals, appointing him army chief of staff. A few years later, Zia ousted Bhutto in a coup that he earlier punished officers for planning.

Zia's eight years in power are largely attributable to his firm grip over the armed forces. But while his control continues to appear secure, details available for the first time about the background to the Attock trial point to significant disaffection among lower military ranks against Zia and suggest that loyalty cannot be taken for granted.

In the Attock trial, 12 majors, one lieutenant-colonel, an air force squadron leader, two police officials and nine civilians, left-wing lawyer Raza Kazim, are accused of conspiring along with others including General Mustafa Khar (exiled leader of Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party in London) to "wage war against the government established by law in Pakistan" by plotting to kidnap Zia, assassinate generals and ministers and incite a "mass uprising". They are also charged with sedition for holding meetings and publishing subversive literature.

These officers and Kazim were arrested after an incident at a house in Nawab Kot, a suburb of Lahore, on the night of January 2, 1984 when two officers were alleged to have been "handed" trying to escape with a consignment of arms and

bullion "smuggled from a neighbouring country". This incident, in which two police men and a passerby were killed in "cross fire" (according to the government's version) was officially reported as the "smashing of a foreign-inspired plot" aimed at "large-scale subversion" in the country. But official spokesmen consistently denied that any military personnel were involved in the incident and also publicly denied rumours that a coup attempt had been foiled.

A wave of arrests of military staff followed. Lahore incident as ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) units struck in a coordinated way, at major cantonments across the country. By early February more than 250 officers were detained and a similar number - reputedly outspoken critics of martial law - were interrogated. The officers on trial maintain that the Nawab Kot incident was part of an elaborate operation devised and executed by the ISI chief, General Akhtar Rahman, to frame dissenting officers and purge the military of critics of the Zia regime. They point to several inconsistencies in the official account of the Nawab Kot incident and allege they were led into a trap by a man claiming to be a sympathizer of their dissenting group but who was an ISI plant.

From information that has recently emerged from Attock Fort about events preceding the Nawab Kot incident it is possible to reconstruct what might really have happened. The story begins in mid-1981 when a group of about 20 junior and middle ranking officers convinced that military rule was damaging the country, undermining its unity and would ultimately lead to the disintegration of Pakistan, decided that something must be done. They began to meet informally as a discussion group.

The prime mover of the group - later to be called "Soldiers for the Restoration of Democracy" - was a young major in his thirties, Afzal Khattak Chaudhry (the principal accused in the trial) who had served as a newly-commis-

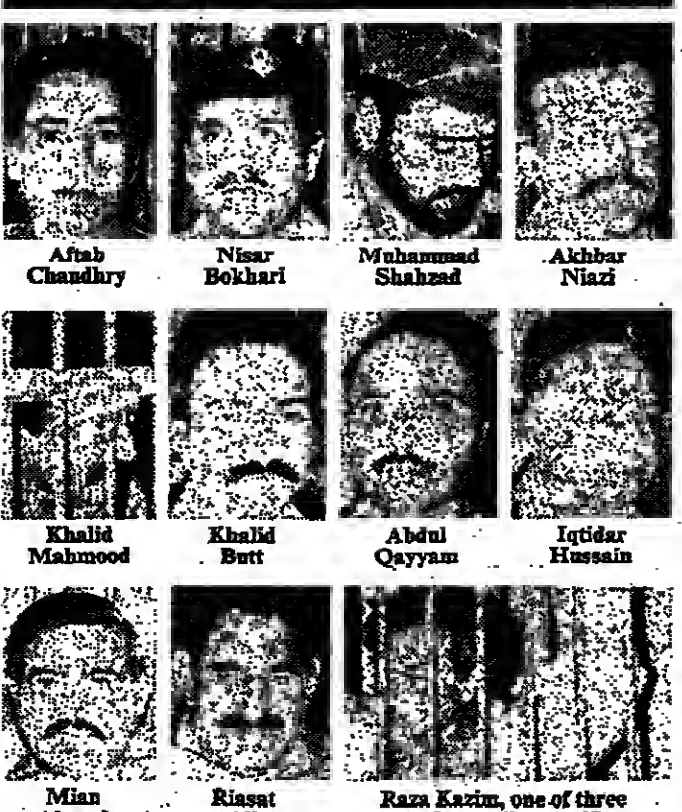
sioned officer in East Pakistan in 1971 at the time that the military unleashed the military operation against the Bangladeshi nationalist movement. Indeed several members of the core group had witnessed the horrors of the Bengal civil war; some had been prisoners of war in India. They had obviously come away with certain lessons, especially that history could repeat itself in what was left of Pakistan.

The group decided to work

towards bringing an "awakening" in the armed forces through a proselytizing campaign. Pamphlets were circulated to draw attention, among other things, to the dangers of military rule, exposing corruption among senior ranks and showing how the army was increasingly becoming the focus of growing popular resentment against Zia's dictatorship.

The officers also began exploring the possibility of establishing contact with civ-

ON SECRET TRIAL



The 17 on trial before the Special Military Court, Attock are: Sgt. Ldr. Fakhri Muhammad Shahzad, Lt. Col. Khairat Mahmood, Major Afzal Chaudhry, Syed Nisar Bokhari, Abdul Razzaq Malik, Muhammad Akhtar Shahzad, Abdul Qayyum, Iqbal Hussain, Muhammad Sadik, Muhammad Akhtar Khan Niazi, Mustafa Kamal, Muhammad Khalid, Zafar Iqbal and Khalid Wahid Butt, Major (retired) Mian Zaher Ahmad, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Chaudhry Riazat Ali, Police Inspector and Raza Kazim, lawyer.

They are all charged under the Pakistan Penal Code, section 121A, with "waging war against the government" and sections 124A and 128B with "conspiring to commit sedition by holding meetings and publishing seditious literature to bring into hatred and contempt and excite disaffection towards the government of Pakistan".

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CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 670)

ACROSS

1. Private hospital (6)
2. Discontinue supply (3)
3. Yes (3)
4. Top (6)
5. Adventurous (6)
6. Pavement edge (4)
7. Japanese monarch (9)
8. Beyond (6)
9. Join (6)
10. Rochester's lover (4,4)
11. Mince (4)
12. Seizure in transit (6)
13. Derv (6)
14. Epoch (3)
15. Ill (6)
16. Burlesque (6)

DOWN

1. Bloodsucking insect (5)
2. SW Africa (7)
3. Deal with backing (5,2)
4. Lebanon confiter (5)
5. Portable lamp (5)
6. Extremity (7)
7. Choose (3)
8. Avoidance (7)
9. OBE subordinate (1,1,1)
10. Schedules (7)
11. Storm (7)
12. Fill with pride (5)
13. Country bumpkin (5)
14. Bright (5)

SOLUTION TO No 679

ACROSS: 8 North Carolina 9 Cos 10 Quadrille 11 Store 13 Reprise 14 French 15 Office 16 Philippe 17 French 18 French 19 French 20 French 21 French 22 French 23 French 24 French 25 French 26 French 27 French 28 French

DOWN: 1 Enacts 2 Presto 3 Chequer 4 Bazaar 5 Scar 6 Gille 7 Waders 12 Tar 14 Property 15 Sue 16 Fairly 17 Ouspout 18 Youth 19 Frumpy 21 Render 23 Ruse

SATURDAY

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FRIDAY PAGE

The wife who beat the bureaucrats

Convinced that her husband, crippled by a stroke, could walk again, Diane Munday fought the system. Helen Franks reports on her victory

Diane Munday has two box files. They are the result of nearly a year's struggle with bureaucracy and tell a story significant for those trying to claim a disabled grant.

Diane and Derek Munday are in their early fifties, at that stage in life when the mortgage is nearly paid off and the children are grown up. Last May, the morning after they'd returned from a holiday in Tenerife, they were having breakfast in their home near St Albans, and Derek was reading the paper, when something happened which dramatically changed their lives.

"One minute he was sitting there beside me, and the next he was unconscious on the floor," is how Diane remembers it. Derek, aged 53, had suffered a severe stroke which left him paralysed down one side.

After three months of crises, secondary infections and near-disasters, his condition stabilized. Diane was told that her husband probably would never walk again, nor have the use of his left arm. He could not sit up straight, feed himself or go to the lavatory unaided and he was confused mentally.

What Diane saw was slightly different. A fighter by nature, she had campaigned vigorously for the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act, has been a magistrate for 15 years and is public relations officer for British Pregnancy Advisory Service. She saw that her husband was going through a time when he would not be able to get out of the wheelchair. She was convinced that one day he would walk but he held back by apathy, depression and a sense of humiliation.

"He had no hope in him," Diane says. "He wanted me with him in the hospital the whole time because he said he was frightened when I was not there."

The only answer was to take him home. First there had to be a "test" visit home, with Derek accompanied by a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist who could suggest alterations to the house in order to qualify for an improvement grant. The first ideas were an indoor lift to take Derek upstairs and a shower with wheelchair access, which could be provided by knocking down a wall between two bedrooms.

Then came the really difficult problem. The house is built on a hill so that the front garden is very sloped and there is a steep path and steps to



'It was a matter of principle... she wanted to change the rules'

at home. The crucial problem was getting the wheelchair in and out of the house for hospital visits during the day when her sons were at work. The Stepmaster would do the work and could be installed immediately.

For three days her builder son worked to get the front garden ready. A formal builders' estimate would have been around £1,100 for the work. Diane's son was prepared to put in a bill for £350 for materials only. It meant that Derek Munday, who immediately began to improve, could come home to his family by the middle of last August, no more than a fortnight after the hospital had said he was ready and the negotiations had started.

Diane had saved her husband from at least six months more in hospital - three months for the bedroom alteration plans to be prepared and another three before the council would give the financial go-ahead. She also saved taxpayers and ratepayers £140 a day, which is what it costs for an acute hospital bed.

She sent her bills for the Stepmaster work to the environmental health inspector, with a letter pointing out the inconsistencies she had discovered. The bill, she said, should be part of her grant application under the "special circumstances" heading.

A letter came back stating again

that grant aid could not be paid retrospectively but that there was a special "without prejudice" approval where urgent works are necessary. It meant that an applicant could submit the estimates and then start the work instead of waiting three months for approval. Not for the Stepmaster, though. "Works already completed cannot be covered by these arrangements," it said.

Still, it meant that the interior work could go ahead once the estimates were sent. But it's not much good for those without the ready cash. As Diane says: "I was lucky. I have a son who is a builder, some money in the bank, and I have a job. But the very nature of the 'without prejudice' condition is that at the end of the day they could refuse to pay. It would be a terrible risk to put in capital when there is the prospect of the breadwinner never earning money again."

It was this awareness, not only of

least three times the sum during the time he spent at home, the money has gone through his books. In the case of our platform the total cost was £313.56 and I have the reassurance of knowing I had a first-class job done by somebody with a personal interest in the matter. How stupid for somebody to have a worse job at greater expense (in excess of £1,000) in order to qualify for a grant."

Derek Munday would not be needing the internal lift either. Diane had worked remorselessly to get her husband out of the wheelchair. She had taken him to hospital for treatment four times a week and, on her own admission, had bullied him, bargained with him and retrained him to live as normal a life as possible.

Her reward from the council was notice that a reassessment was now needed, and there would be further delay on grant decisions. The shower installation was approved but not the wall removed (Diane did it anyway at her own expense). A handrail for the stairs would replace the indoor lift.

Meanwhile, the local housing authority had agreed to discuss the rules. Diane's case was examined and she was allowed to speak. The officers at the meeting recommended that the rules should not be changed. They cited Derek's improvement as justification for avoiding hasty judgements in regard to payment and saw no reason why urgency should be a factor in considering ways to overcome "inevitable" delays.

They also quoted section 57 of the Housing Act, which reads: "A local authority may not approve an application for a grant if the relevant works have been begun unless they are satisfied there were good reasons for beginning those works before the application was approved."

The committee acknowledged that it had applied the terms of the Act very strictly in order to avoid "time-consuming administration difficulties" and passed the following resolutions: That in case of sudden disability the council would consider retrospective payments; that it will accept successive applications to deal with immediate need for works in cases of sudden disability; and that applications for grants for disabled or handicapped persons would continue to receive priority treatment.

Diane, with a smile of triumph, says: "Personally I'd had no indication that there had been any priority, but I wasn't going to quibble."

The housing sub-committee which had to approve the case took a vote and Diane was given the grant. She got a £2,200 cheque last week to cover the building work in the front garden, the hire of the Stepmaster and the shower.

The story doesn't end there. Diane is now battling with social services who would not accept her estimate for materials for the handrail on the stairs because she did not include labour costs. A very small sum is involved, but Diane knows a thing or two about fighting for a principle. It's something for which disabled people in St Albans will have reason to be grateful. But what's it like everywhere else?

FIRST PERSON

Carless rapture

English eccentricity is not dead. My family is distinctly odd. Not only do we have a black and white television (decidedly eccentric), but we lack a video recorder, double glazing, food processor and home computer. And, stranger still, we have no car.

Car owners who whizz around Sainsbury's on Friday nights, pushing their trolleys at motorway speeds and grabbing at guava yogurts, tortilla chips and soy sauce, miss all the pleasures of a daily tour of the shops where the day's menu, not the month's, is the main concern.

Wheelchair hinders gaily take up running or join keep fit classes. I get plenty of exercise just by walking everywhere within a three-mile radius of home.

Our holidays are taken in places which can be reached by coach or train, but we have not yet had in sunbaths in Salford or search for the sea at Southport.

Buses, too, are not to be scorned. Market days, when country buses meander from village to village, are a joy and only intrepid non-car owners like me would know that you can reach Stonehouse from Salisbury on a double-decker, stay there for 43 minutes and catch the same bus back.

Car owning friends are quick to point out the financial advantages of being without a car. With feigned looks of envy, they tell us how lucky we are, how much money we save and how they would love to give up their cars. But they don't.

I have to confess to a few disadvantages in having no car. Our three-year-old garden is still only an embryo. We have to lug all our plants from the local market instead of zooming out to garden centres for carloads of seedlings and paving stones.

Shoes, of course, wear out much more quickly when walked in all the time and baby buggies designed, I suspect, for car boots, soon give up the ghost when trundled along cliff paths.

These drawbacks, however, will become fond memories soon. My husband has changed his job and with the new post comes - a car. We can then join our friends at the Friday night supermarket scum and at the Sunday afternoon garden centre sampler. We can discuss the price of petrol and the iniquitous burden of road tax.

Oh well, there's always the black and white television.

Margery Roberts

Survey probes increased costs

A pilot scheme is to be launched to find out how many patients decide not to complete their dental treatment because they cannot afford new charges.

The survey organized by the British Dental Association, will be conducted in the next couple of months using a representative cross-section of the population. The BDA is providing stickers for dentists to add to claim forms which will indicate whether treatment has been modified or discontinued because of the cost.

This is the BDA response to the fact that the maximum payment for NHS dental treatment, it shot up in April this year from £14.50 to £17 plus 40 per cent of the cost of any other work needed. The Government claims that this will have no impact on patients seeking treatment because people likely to suffer financial hardship are exempt from charges.

Mr David Watson James of the BDA is not convinced. He has collected evidence from colleagues that increasing numbers of patients are running up huge debts with their dentists, while the rate of cancelled or broken second appointments - when a patient is expected to return for treatment after a check-up - has also risen.

Mr Watson James's suggestion for offsetting health charges would be a tax on sugar content in food and drink. "I see no difference whatsoever between sugar, tobacco and alcohol. They are all luxuries," he says. "It is a nonsense to tax treatment and not the major cause of dental disease."

Vaccine could prevent disease

A potentially quick, cheap and simple way of preventing dental disease has been developed at the Royal College of Surgeons in London.

Scientists there have developed a vaccine against Streptococcus mutans, the bacteria which is largely responsible for the process which leads to tooth decay.

The project, a joint venture with the DHSS and the pharmaceutical firm Burroughs Wellcome, began more than 10 years ago - before the current improvements in dental health really began to show. In animal studies the vaccine has proved

DENTAL BRIEFING

Winning the war against tooth decay

The screech of the dentist's drill is no longer a sound which every British child will have to endure. The health of our children's teeth has improved dramatically over the past decade and if it continues, filled teeth could become a rarity.

In 1973 a Government-sponsored survey found that 71 per cent of five-year-olds in England and Wales had signs of tooth decay. When the study was repeated in 1983, the figure had dropped to 48 per cent. In 1973 the same five-year-olds had, on average between three and four decayed or missing teeth. Ten years on the figure has halved.

A comparison of the surveys shows that although most striking in the younger age groups, the improvement applies to children of all ages. Fewer children now have tooth decay, and those who do, have fewer affected teeth.

Adults too have healthier mouths although the improvement in the dental health of older people has been much less dramatic. In 1968, 41 per cent of adults had no teeth left at all. By 1978 the proportion had fallen to less than a third.

80 per cent effective against dental caries and, having passed safety tests, is now ready for clinical trials in humans.

Because other preventive measures appear to be working, some dentists are sceptical about the vaccine's use in this country. Professor Newell Johnson, director of the research project, acknowledges that the vaccine may prove most useful to third world countries which are now seeing an upsurge in dental decay as their diet becomes more westernized.

But he says the vaccine could also be useful here if going to the dentist becomes too expensive.

Painting over the cracks

Two procedures which are particularly useful for children's teeth are not yet available on the National Health Service.

The first - fissure sealant - involves treating the tops of teeth with diluted phosphoric

acid. This etches out the enamel surface and the tooth is then painted with a liquid resin which hardens when exposed to light.

The fissures in the teeth - potential weak spots through which bacteria can creep and rot the dentine under the enamel - are thus protected from between five and ten years.

A joint study group from the British Dental Association and the Department of Health is examining the cost-effectiveness of fissure sealant and deciding whether it should be available under the NHS.

The second development is of a glass and silver cement used instead of traditional filling material. The brainchild of a British dentist, Dr John McLean, it has been available on a wide scale for less than a year and is particularly popular in Europe and America. Dr McLean's treatment is not yet available on the NHS, though some glass cements are. Drilling is much more limited and more of the original tooth can be preserved.

Transplants for teeth

People in their late teens who are self-conscious about the prospect of wearing a brace to straighten their teeth can opt for a tooth transplant. This method is also chosen if the tooth has to be removed too far for a brace alone.

Very occasionally, transplanting is done to replace a missing tooth. If a person loses a front tooth, for example, a wisdom tooth can be uprooted, moved forward and crowned so that it looks like its new neighbour. The result is never as good as wearing a plate.

For the wealthy, there is an alternative to plates and bridges for missing teeth: artificial implants. A piece of metal is stuck into the bone and then a tooth attached to this anchor.

A method developed in Sweden is giving better results. The artificial root, made from titanium, is buried in the bone for six months which gives the tissue a chance to adjust to the foreign body. The metal is then re-exposed and the artificial tooth fitted. The problem is cost: the titanium bases are £200 each and the final bill could be well over £3,000.

Hypnosis or the needle?

Patients are often given anaesthetics by dentists who have no training and rely on the knowledge they picked up as undergraduates. This alarming finding has emerged from a questionnaire sent to a small group of dentists and doctors and reported in the *British Medical Journal*.

Nearly a third of dentists who regularly give general anaesthetics have no postgraduate training in the techniques. And previous surveys have revealed that a third of all anaesthetics given to dental patients are administered by dentists alone, without any medical support.

Are there alternatives to anaesthesia? Dentists who practise hypnotherapy seem to have some success in soothing troubled patients. Mr Bernard Oliver, a north London dentist and a leading member of the Society of Medical and Dental Hypnosis, says the technique is particularly useful for patients who do not want to take pain killers.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

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THE TIMES DIARY

People's tribune?

Clearly bent on buying his way into the Labour Party, Mirror Group publisher Robert Maxwell is hatching a deal to take over *Tribune*, Labour's oldest periodical. The paper gained respectable status within the party earlier this year when, under the new editorship of Nigel Williamson, it broke free from the Bennite influence, and put its weight behind Neil Kinnock and a centre-left coalition. According to informed MP's yesterday Maxwell's plan is to give *Tribune* a six-figure extended credit which, if called in, would make him *de facto* owner. The deal would also represent part of the settlement in the long-running legal battle over ownership between the *Tribune* staff and John Silkin, MP for Deptford. Silkin's battle began when the paper aligned itself to the Bennite camp three years ago under the then editor Chris Mullin. Despite *Tribune's* recent allegiance to mainstream Labour politics, Silkin has refused to drop the litigation, placing the future of the paper in jeopardy. Silkin has a long-standing connection with Maxwell, being a former board member of Maxwell's Pergamon Press. Silkin's brother Sam is currently vice-chairman of Maxwell's BPCC outfit. Yesterday Williamson would only say he was determined *Tribune* "would remain Labour's independent weekly."

Artistic licence

What price patriotism? In the wake of yesterday's announcement of a six-month embargo on granting an export licence for the Mantegna, the Marquess of Northampton, who sold it, confessed it would be in his interest if it went to America. In a deal made before the sale, the Getty Museum in California - who bought the painting for £8.1 million - agreed to pay the Marquess £250,000 interest over three months if an export licence is granted to them. However, if Tim Clifford is successful in raising enough cash to buy it for the National Gallery in Scotland before the six months expires, the Marquess gets nothing. When I rang Clifford yesterday, he was pre-occupied: "Have you heard? Isn't it marvellous! The Getty Museum has just given £50 million to the National Gallery." When I pointed out that the benefactor was in fact John Paul Getty III, he said: "Oh my God. That puts me in a state of concerned trepidation." What concerned Clifford, of course, is whether the donation will affect the millions he is hoping to net from Mr Getty for the Mantegna.

Black humour

It's not often that a character in a Billy Connolly story gets a right of reply - but here goes. Connolly's latest anecdote - as told to friends and related here last week - was that he and Rod Stewart were given a lift to Heathrow by an unsuspecting gent who was on his way to a funeral. Yesterday the anonymous driver of the Volkswagen range me - "It's all true, but a funny!" said merchant - banker Mark Murphy. "That's a funny way to describe picking my girlfriend up from Heathrow - as Connolly well knew."

Early warning

The Greenham Common women should beware. The American Air Force base in Berkshire has just taken delivery of 15 Ramo Mk 19 grenade launchers, which were first used in Vietnam. The launchers, bought from the Ramo armaments firm in Minneapolis, are capable of firing riot control CS gas, and come with M430 high explosive impact grenades. According to my military expert, these grenades are "nasty, vicious weapons, capable of 'taking out' a lightly armoured car."

Out of hours

Here's a puzzle for Hackney women. Female workers in the council's leisure services department want them to fill in a questionnaire about how services could be improved. Question 24 asks: "Do you feel that there are any personal or political factors that affect your spare time activities? eg. racism, age, sexism, where you live etc." Oh brave new Hackney that has such people in it.

Starring Rolls

Like the true beggar-on-horseback, GLC chairman Tony Banks MP rolled up to the House of Commons yesterday in his white chauffeur-driven limousine (reg. I ALG) to the hysterics of Harriet Harman MP and to be saluted by a stoopy-faced Michael Meacher, Labour's social services spokesman. As Banks got out hooting with laughter, Meacher's face finally creased. Such fun.

Footnote

Warning: don't play footsie in Sofia. Leading an eight-MP, inter-parliamentary delegation to Bulgaria, Tory Nigel Forman made the mistake of stretching out a leg beneath the felt-covered table at which Comrade Christov, the Bulgarian Trade Minister, was holding forth. Encountering a hard surface, Forman spluttered an apology for accidentally kicking the minister in the shin. But he had not. On peering beneath, Forman realised he had instead knocked a microphone. The entire meeting was being recorded.

PHS

Where Fowler is off-target

Hermione Parker on shortcomings of the social security review

Despite its now obvious limitations the Beveridge plan was strategic thinking on the grand scale. There was a magic about it which captured the mood of the moment that has still not entirely disappeared.

Beveridge was explicit about his aims, assumptions, methods and figures. He aimed at abolition of want, which he measured (albeit rather rudimentarily) in terms of weekly needs and costs throughout the life cycle, recognizing nevertheless that needs as well as costs change with time.

The question is whether Norman Fowler's social security reviews also add up to a plan or are primarily a cost-cutting exercise. The need to cut costs is indisputable, but there is a world of difference between strategic change which prevents costs getting out of control again, and tactical cost-cutting exercises which have to be repeated.

Strategic change means finding out why costs went out of control in the first place, which requires quantitative analysis rather than vague generalizations. It means learning from experience, going back to first principles and taking nothing for granted.

Fowler does one of this, and with the exception of the state pension scheme Serpe all the big questions are disregarded. Benefit changes are proposed without any systematic attempt to measure need, indeed with almost no figure work at all.

Unemployment benefits are retained despite Beveridge's warning and all subsequent experience that unemployment benefits cannot operate efficiently without full employment, and extra benefits are "added" on lone parents despite the fact that this is one of the areas where expenditure is most out of control (over £1,000 million in 1984 compared with £15 million in 1960) and without even discussing the implications for the family.

The present system of income maintenance has three fundamental flaws, yet all three seem to have been outside the review's terms of reference. Contingency benefits paid for "interruption or loss of earnings" and withdrawn on return to work, trap people in poverty instead of providing a base on which to build, and adding to unemployment.

Benefits based on marital status encourage families to split up rather than stay together, and encourage procreation outside marriage. And people with similar needs are treated differently, some receiving more than strictly necessary, some less and some nothing at all. Each of these effects is reinforced by the income tax system which was also outside the terms of reference.

Contingency benefits add to unemployment because they act as a floor for wages and gradually price people with low earnings potential out of the regular labour market. Complicated bureaucratic procedures block adjustment to change in the regular labour market; and

the promotion of Michael Checkland to what is essentially a new and powerful post of deputy director general, indicate deep concern that the BBC has not been performing as well as it should on several fronts.

The make-up of the committee, in BBC eyes, leaves little encouragement. Only two figures connected with the corporation have a seat - Alasdair Hetherington, the former *Guardian* editor and controller of the corporation in Scotland, and the broadcaster Judith Chalmers, picked because she owes divides her time between ITV and the BBC.

Alasdair Milne has complained long and hard that the BBC had been over-examined in recent years. In fact, apart from largely internal exercises such as the recent Peat Marwick report, the only formal inquiries have been Annan, which was formed in 1975 and reported in 1977, and Pilkington, starting in 1962 and reporting two years later.

Peacock will be a radically different form of inquiry, working to a tight timescale and probably with no formal sessions for the delivery of verbal evidence. The members are booked to meet for fortnightly gatherings at the Home Office until July next year, the month in which their report should be delivered to the Home Secretary.

Unlike Annan, the focus of Peacock is likely to turn around the routine of two issues. What would be the effect on other media of advertising on the BBC? And is it

true that BBC advertising would inevitably lead to a lowering of quality throughout the whole of British television, as the corporate claims?

The inquiry is also likely to commission a large opinion poll to test public feeling about the present output of BBC and ITV, and whether they would object to advertising being introduced into the corporation, wholly or partially.

By the end of August, Peacock and his team will have their full quota of submissions.

Peacock's frequent portrayal as a Trojan horse designed to bring commercials into the BBC does not tally with the fine detail of the committee's brief. It is asked to produce options, not recommendations.

So by August next year we may well read something along the following lines:

Option One, funding the BBC completely from advertising immediately, would bankrupt several ITV companies and most of the commercial radio network.

Option Two, limited advertising on BBC1 and Radio 1 and 2 with a mandate from the Home Secretary to lower existing standards would enable the licence fee to be pegged at £58 for a further five years. Advertising on ITV and commercial radio would not grow in volume in the first few years, but a gradual expansion can be foreseen within five years and new forms of



David Hewson on the implications of the Peacock inquiry

BBC may have to make the break

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Option Two, limited advertising on BBC1 and Radio 1 and 2 with a mandate from the Home Secretary to lower existing standards would enable the licence fee to be pegged at £58 for a further five years. Advertising on ITV and commercial radio would not grow in volume in the first few years, but a gradual expansion can be foreseen within five years and new forms of

undoubtedly in contact with his father.

Yet until February, Klein knew that any request for phone tapping, mail intercepts and police raids would be rejected and would harm his own position. Thanks to the American media and government, those obstacles were rapidly dismantled after February's Jerusalem "trial". Police raids produced evidence which was always known to exist. Confirmation from the son about his father's fate settles the issue.

Embarrassing questions now arise, including allegations that Mengele was arrested by British forces after the war and then released. The Prime Minister has so far refused to release the government's Mengele file. There is also little doubt that both Mossad and the CIA had reliable information to the early 1960s about Mengele's whereabouts after his disappearance from Paraguay but decided to conceal it for regular operational reasons. Most interesting, however, will be the eventual unravelling of the successful conspiracy by the many people who knew about Mengele's existence but who for years kept their secret.

Tom Bower

David Watt

Mrs Thatcher's nationalization

Mrs Thatcher made a revealing remark to David Frost on breakfast television the other morning when she said that a fall in the exchange rate was a terrible blow to national pride. Any practical free-market economist will turn up his or her nose at this kind of talk. However, the Prime Minister obviously has a point. A fall in the value of the currency usually represents some rough market judgement on the immediate economic prospects of the country, and in the long run it reflects a real decline in the competitiveness of British industry.

The patriotic reaction should therefore be that the team is falling behind the foreign opposition, must pull its socks up, work harder and organize and sell itself better.

This, clearly, is exactly what the Prime Minister thinks. As Patrick Cosgrave points out in his new and (as one would expect) very sympathetic account of the Thatcher "revolution", the mainspring of a great deal of her philosophy is nationalism. Her background and instincts are insular and chauvinistic, in the first place she has two red, admired and imbibed Enoch Powell's views about the centrality of the idea of a "nation" in human affairs and his extremely precise and restricted definition of its scope. On top of this she has evidently studied de Gaulle and has brought away some ideas about how to govern - the importance of will-power in the ruler, for instance, and above all the notion that national pride is a crucial instrument for achieving political ends.

One more factor has to be added to complete the Prime Minister's picture - the conviction that her country was actually going to perdition until she came along and turned it back from the brink.

She does not see her role as that of a manager, in the style of Baldwin or Macmillan or even Disraeli. It is her destiny to be the saviour of the nation in the style of her real heroes, the Young Turk and Churchill.

The Cosgrave portrait, which I do not think I have overdone excessively in summarising, explains a number of things - the crucial and continuing importance of the Falklands episode in her mind, for that was the moment at which the dream incoherently corresponded to reality; likewise her deep, instinctive distrust of the Foreign Office as being, in a sense, the Trojan Horse of the outside world. But above all it explains, as in the homily about the exchange rate, the constant use of the patriotic theme not merely as a way of inducing the British people to come up to scratch, as she would see it, but to vindicate her own idea of what she is ultimately about.

Six years on, two critical questions can legitimately be asked about this Gaullist strategy. First, to what extent do the British people actually respond to it; and second, how successfully has it worked in the outside world. On the first point, we had better be careful. It would be gratifying to think that the average British citizen behaves like the characters in one of those wonderfully elevating Communist Chinese plays; that Roo and Ethel, blearily turning on their radio in the morning and hearing that the pound has been plunging in Tokyo all night, immediately leap into their clothes, put an extra teaspoon of

*Thatcher: the First Term (Bodley Head £9.95)

moreover... Miles Kington

Striking a note of cynicism

It's always easy to spot the difference between amateur musicians and the real thing, the amateurs look as if they are enjoying themselves, while the true pros wear a look of infinite cynicism from beginning to end. Musicians are the true cynics *par excellence*.

I came across the best example of this unrecognized law in 1980, when I went to see a production of *Pal Joey* at the Half Moon Theatre down in E5, or somewhere equally remote. The place was so small that the band was actually on-stage, yet despite their exposure they all wore expressions which suggested they would much rather be elsewhere. Nobody more so than the double bass player, who had a string break after half an hour and had to spend the next hour, between songs, putting in a new string which, as a fellow bass player, I can testify is no mean feat. After twisting and twisting it, he finally got it installed and started to look more relaxed. At that point, half the scenery came away from the wall and fell on top of him.

The rest of the band went wild. They roared with laughter. They giggled for the rest of the evening. Having spent an hour and a half looking bored out of their lives, they suddenly looked as if life was worth living. Like TV studio audiences, they are never so happy as when something goes terribly wrong.

This air of complete detachment seems to be true as far as the world goes. Last month, in Seville, I went to two very good flamenco clubs (Los Gallos and El Arenal - make a note) where the dancers, singers and clappers all wore expressions of those traditional Andalusian virtues, arrogance, pride, passion, turbulence and sexual hauteur. The deepest emotions passed across their faces like a thunderstorm. Only the guitarists (the real musicians) showed no feeling at all; the fiercer their playing, the more stolid their faces. The only time they came to life was when one of them thought of a joke and turned to tell it to the other, in mid-flamenco flight.

If a musician shows signs of involvement and passion, you can be virtually certain that he is putting it on, all part of an act. I was in a restaurant in Bangalore last February (sorry about this place-dro-

ping) where there was a very good three-piece Indian band struggling against the enthusiasm of a 14-piece, all male, very drunk wedding party. The drunken Indians, all besuited businessmen, kept throwing hungrily at the band, who got requests played by the stage, who followed suit with polite smiles and bowing from the waist.

I bumped into the leader of the band next day in a book shop. I got talking to him and sympathized with him about the churlishness of the wedding party. "What can you do?" he said. "We try to play good music and all they want to do is hear pop songs from back home and cry into their whisky."

As I was saying, musicians tend to be cynical, all over the world. Lenny Bruce used to say that if the band was laughing at what he said but the audience wasn't reacting, he knew he'd gone too far. The only curious exception I can think of to this is, curiously, concert pianists, who seem to put on an act of total suffering every time they touch the keyboard.

I was once present in the Wigmore Hall at midday when a classical pianist was practising by himself - just me, just him. His expressions of woe and agony could not have been more exhausting than if there had been 2,000 people in the hall. I think he was practising the agony as much as his piano.

The last musician I saw who looked enthusiastic about his music was a hunker in Bath, last Saturday, playing the hurdy-gurdy. After one fairly complicated piece he asked the audience to step closer and then gave them a spirited lecture on the mechanics of the instrument, which was fascinating.

How come he looked so keen and uncynical? Because he was still a student, that's why. When he becomes a fully fledged professional, he will look as detached and unfeeling as all true musicians. Unless, of course, he picks up the showbiz antics of the classical pianist, who puts on the utterly sincere and totally committed facade of the supposed true artist. What I can't decide is whether this makes the classical pianist the ultimate cynic or not.

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Testing time for the Bank of England

The relationship between the Treasury and Bank of England, always interesting, is in a fascinating phase. It may be no more than coincidence, but during the first two years of Robin Leigh-Pemberton's tenure, the Treasury has succeeded in reducing the Bank's role to that of technical operations. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has taken to criticizing the Bank and its officials publicly (journalistic habits die hard) for what the Treasury deems its errors and shortcomings.

The important question now is whether the Bank of England is able ("willing") to execute the Treasury's will. The area in which an answer is singularly important is monetary policy. Having embraced a form of monetarism as the centrepiece of economic management, the Government needs to succeed, and until that happy day when the inflation rate falls to zero, it needs to be seen to be making progress. The Treasury and, it appears, the Prime Minister no less, is not best pleased with the form of the originally favoured money supply target, Sterling M3. For that the Bank is being blamed for some unprofessional bungling. To be on the safe side, the Chancellor has elevated another measure, M0, as a better indicator of money supply growth than M3.

In politics such ploys are par for the course, but as the broker W. Greenwell points out in a perceptive, and for non-believers in the sight of grown men playing games with motorway numbers, almost hilarious, *Monetary Bulletin*, the Chancellor tried to resist the switch. Not because it wanted to be awkward, but because with its current mechanisms, the Bank cannot control M0 (which incidentally is largely a measure of the total of banknotes and coin in the system).

"Attempts to control M0 from the demand side," say the seers of Bow Bells House, "are almost certainly doomed to failure."

They go on: "It will be no surprise if the target for M0 gradually lapses in the same way as those for M1 and Sterling M3... the credibility of introducing yet another target variable would be low. Overall, the discipline on the Government of having published targets for the money supply is likely progressively to disappear, with policy becoming almost wholly discretionary."

"The experience of the 1960s and the early 1970s indicates that it is most unwise to rely on a discretionary policy. The main danger, however, will come from the continued build up of excess liquidity in

the economy, which the authorities are currently attempting to contain by operations which result in the Bank's bull mountain."

This is a mountain for which the Bank's Commission has absolutely no responsibility. It is the result of the decision to prevent the banks building up their deposits at an even faster rate than they are doing on this inflating the cherished £M3 figure.

By buying commercial bids from the banks, the Bank of England has already provided no less than £15 billion to sustain their rapidly rising lending, as an alternative to the banks' going out and bidding for deposits for the same purpose. The country, if you haven't noticed, is on the most enormous credit-financed spending spree.

None the less, the volume of bank deposits - a worthwhile way to save when real interest rates offered are so high - is a time bomb ticking away under the Chancellor's chair. It represents liquidity that might suddenly be turned into even greater spending than, in turn, would probably push up the rate of inflation.

Greenwell argues for some mechanism that would hinder people - the aggregate, from cashing their bank deposits. This is not as terrifying as it might seem, at least in the form Greenwell advocates. The broker suggests a limit on the quantity of eligible bills the Bank is willing to buy from the banks. If the market wants to sell more than the Bank should extract a penalty.

There is, to say the least, in current monetary policy, confusion both in thought and deed. It is almost a relief to return to the latest figures.

Although the fall in M0 was revised from 0.25 to 0.1 per cent, most of the additional information revealed in the final May money supply figures was encouraging. Sterling M3 rose 0.5 per cent and bank lending rose £1.4 billion, as provisionally estimated, but the positive external item suggests that there is still some unwinding of April's 2.9 per cent sterling M3 rise to come.

Gifts sales totalled £590 million in banking May, and the net effect of public sector transaction was contradictory by £10 million.

As always, much of the interest in the final figures is in the non-target aggregates. The old narrow money measure, interest-bearing M1, rose at a 2.3 per cent pace, and has risen 43 per cent over the past year, but M2, some people's choice to take over from sterling M3, increased by just 0.1 per cent. PSL2 rose a modest 0.3 per cent.

Tremors of change at Saatchi

If a share price movement can be attributed to the departure of a senior director, then Tooy Simmonds-Gooding must have been flattered to learn that no less than £44.8 million was deducted from the market capitalization of Whitbread, the brewers, on the announcement that he had resigned as managing director.

However, such heady stuff will have turned to ashes when the worthy and popular Mr Simmonds-Gooding saw what he had done to the shares of Saatchi and Saatchi, the advertising and consultancy group which is to acquire his services from September 1. They fell 15p, losing £5.8 million from its market value.

Both reactions are short-sighted and, arguable, ill-informed. Mr Simmonds-Gooding had spent 12 years at Whitbread, and at the age of 48 was ready for pastures new. His skill, as a graduate of Liotas and Bird's Eye, was in the marketing field and his replacement, Peter Jarvis, has been Whitbread's marketing director for the past six years. Thus continuity is preserved.

Mr Simmonds-Gooding has been in discussions with Saatchi for several months, and his arrival there heralds a corporate reorganization. Much thought has gone into the future shape of the group both before and since Maurice Saatchi's appointment as chairman. There has been a desire to present the company as far more extensive than the efforts of Maurice and his reclusive brother Charles, as indeed must be the case when group profits in the current year are expected to exceed £38 million.

One consequence of this thinking has been to divide Saatchi and Saatchi into two



Simmonds-Gooding (left) and Peter Jarvis set for change and continuity respectively.

main divisions. One, to be headed by Mr Simmonds-Gooding, will be called Saatchi and Saatchi Communications, will cover the key areas of advertising, public relations, design, direct marketing and sales promotion. The remaining activities of management consultancy and research will in due course be housed in another division, but this is not regarded as a matter of urgency.

Mr Simmonds-Gooding's lengthy experience in industry, including the managing directorship of a significant public company, can now be brought to bear on a wider canvas. It is a measure of Saatchi's standing that it could attract such a recruit without having to offer him a seat on the main board. However, it is also likely that Saatchi found little difficulty in outstripping his Whitbread salary package. The brothers Saatchi earned over £150,000 each last year, and bright copywriters have been known to collect more than £100,000, what price their own boss?

New company for Ronson

Mr Gerald Ronson, chairman of Heron International, Britain's second largest private company, is setting up a property development company specializing in building for high technology companies in the south-east of England with Mr Stephen Padmore, formerly managing director of Higgs & Hill Developments.

Mr Padmore and Mr Tony Royal, property director of Heron International, will be directors of the new company, which will liaise closely with Heron.

Heron He-Tech, says it is looking at development schemes in the fashionable high technology field in the south-east, ranging from a £2 million to around £50 million.

Mr Padmore built more than four million sq ft of such developments worldwide with Higgs & Hill but decided to set up for himself, and obtained financial backing from Heron

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	
FT Ind Ord	977.0 (-7.9)
FT-A All Share	619.54 (-4.83)
FT Govt Securities	81.45 (-0.21)
FT-SE 100	1278.9 (-12.5)
Bargains 21, 181	
Downturn USM	104.46 (-1.24)
New York	
Dow Jones	1300.96 (-5.37)
Nikkei Dow	12,716.87 (-31.14)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1482.91 (-20.03)
Amsterdam	208.7 (-3.1)
Sydney AO	848.9 (-7.6)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1370.4 (-17.4)
Braunfels	
General	340.27 (+3.82)
Paris: CAC	226.7 (-2.7)
Zurich	
SKA General	368.50 (-0.80)
GOLD	
London fixing:	
am \$314.10pm-\$313.75	
close \$313.75-\$314.25	
New York	
Comex \$314.05	

Pressure grows for shake-up of US banking system

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Mr James Baker, US Treasury Secretary, yesterday threw the full weight of the Reagan Administration behind pressure for comprehensive reform of America's outdated banking laws.

Testifying before the Senate Banking Committee in Washington, Mr Baker urged Congress to push ahead with wide-ranging reforms which would pave the way for interstate banking and allow banks to carry out new types of activities.

He did not rule out the possibility of eventually scrapping the Glass-Steagall Act. That is the restrictive measure which ensures separation of investment and commercial banking activities and prevents commercial banks from underwriting corporate securities.

Mr Baker told the Senate committee that reform was

needed to allow banks and savings institutions to compete with other providers of financial services.

He said: "If Congress does not act to resolve the confusion in the financial services industry, we believe the combination of state legislative initiatives and legal innovations arising from competitive pressures may cause further fragmentation of the financial system."

Mr Baker said the immediate priority was to allow banks to carry out a wider range of activities in competition with other financial institutions and this would lead to a sounder and more profitable banking system. He said it should be up to the Fed to decide what activities banks could pursue.

On interstate banking which is gradually emerging in the US despite existing legislation, Mr Baker aligned himself with Mr



Baker: plea for more profitable banking system

Once some experience had been gained with new activities in the banking area, the issue of Glass-Steagall could be revisited, Mr Baker said.

US retail sales fell 0.8 per cent in May, the biggest monthly fall since last July, with car sales down 3 per cent, the Commerce Department reported yesterday, Sarah Hogg writes.

However, the figures for April have been revised upwards substantially, to show a 2.4 per cent rise in the month compared with an original estimate of a rise of only 0.9 per cent.

Taking the two figures together suggests some growth in the second quarter of the year, but not the strong "bounceback" in the American economy forecast by some analysts.

Over the full year to last month, retail sales rose only 5.3 per cent, before allowing for inflation.

Free offer attracts 200,000 to Midland

By Our Banking Correspondent

Midland Bank is believed to have attracted more than 200,000 new customers as a result of its move towards free banking for those who keep their accounts in credit.

It has been drawing customers from the other big three clearing banks and the apparent success of its strategy may eventually force them to follow suit.

When Midland launched free banking last December, it hoped to attract 100,000 accounts in the first year.

At present National Westminster, Lloyds and Barclays require most customers to keep a minimum £100 current account balance to avoid charges, although some smaller banks such as Williams & Glyn's and Co-operative Bank have offered free-if-in-credit banking for some time.

Midland executives say the move has helped to stem the drain of good quality customers, from which Midland was suffering, and they are pleased with the quality of business they have gained. Balance on the new accounts has been said to average about £300.

There has been much speculation about the cost to Midland of moving to free banking and a clear picture is not expected to emerge for some time.

However, Midland is confident that its strategy is proving successful.

None of the other banks have immediate plans to follow Midland, although it is likely that if one of the other big banks does, then all would be forced to respond.

So far the other banks have been fighting back in a variety of ways. Barclays has told its managers not to respond to credit status inquiries from Midland which relate to customers moving their account. There are reports of branch managers using their discretion to grant free banking to some customers in order to retain them.

Grand Met sells offshoot in US for £108m

By Our City Staff

Grand Metropolitan is raising £108 million from the sale of its Pinkerton Tobacco business in the United States. The deal in no way affects the cigarette operation, Liggett and Myers.

Pinkerton, which produces smoking and chewing tobaccos, is being bought by the Swedish tobacco group, Svenska Tobaks. Last year Pinkerton earned profits of £14.5 million on a turnover of £81 million.

Grand Metropolitan said last night that it had decided to sell the operation because it no longer fitted in with its overall strategy.

Abbey 19 times oversubscribed

By Richard Thomson

The flotation of Abbey Life shares, the City's largest private sector primary share issue, was 19.25 times oversubscribed, it was announced yesterday, S. G. Warburg, the merchant bank handling the issue, said that owing to huge demands only a third of the 375,000 applications would receive an allotment of shares.

About 130,000 successful applications will receive shares. A total of 2,600 million shares were applied for compared with the 135 million on offer. The applications were worth £4.6 billion compared with the £241 million worth of shares being sold. The shares, being sold by

ITF, the US conglomerate which owns Abbey Life, represent 48 per cent of the company's equity.

The basis of allocation gives significant preference to smaller applications, leaving roughly half the issued shares in the hands of private investors. A Warburg spokesman said: "Because of the huge oversubscription, allocation letters will be sent out next Wednesday, a day later than planned, and dealing will start on Thursday, also a day later."

About 1,600 applications for 4.6 million shares by Abbey Life employees have been allocated in full on a preferential basis. The big demand for the

company's shares is expected to push their price up to a premium of up to 50p soon after they start to be traded next week.

Under the terms agreed, applications for between 200 and 4,000 shares stand to receive the minimum allocation of 200 shares. Applications for 4,000 to 4,999 shares stand to get 225 shares, while applications for 5,000 shares could receive 250 shares.

On larger applications, those for over 5,000 shares stand to receive 5 per cent of the number applied for, though some may only get four per cent. The maximum allocation is 40,000 shares.

Accept Bristow bid, says Westland

By Judith Huntley

Sir Basil Blackwell, chairman of Westland, the troubled helicopter company, in an unexpected volte-face, has told the company's shareholders to accept the £89 million bid from Mr Alan Bristow's new company, Bristow Rotocraft.

Westland had been holding out against the bid in the hope of finding a white knight from America to rescue the company. But in a statement last night, Westland said that no better deal was forthcoming now and

that it was recommending shareholders to take the one-for-one offer.

The acceptance of Mr Bristow's bid means that £60 million of capital from the founding institutions in Bristow Rotocraft will be available.

It appears that Westland could not find a white knight to come up with such an offer. None of the discussions Sir Basil had with prospective Westland rescuers, has led to an alternative proposal which the

board believes is preferable to Bristow Rotocraft's offer.

Westland, however, has made it clear that it still believed the long-term future of Westland would be better served by an association with an international company with financial muscle.

Westland's directors will accept the offer for their holdings, which total 25,640 shares, and Bristow's founders will pick up their Westland stake for 150p per share.

IN BRIEF

GKN sells seven firms

F H Tomkins, the fast-growing industrial holding company headed by Mr Greg Hutchings, the former Hanson Trust executive, is buying seven manufacturing companies ranging from safety footwear to fasteners from GKN for £13.5 million.

Simon & Coates, the brokers, raised just over £7 million towards the cost of the acquisition yesterday by placing 3.5 million new Tomkins shares with institutional investors.

Signal increase

International Signal is paying a final dividend of 1.5 cents a share, making a total of 2.5 cents (2 pence), after pretax profits for the year to March 31 rose from \$28.1 million (£22.3 million) to \$40 million.

Tempus, page 19

Redland up £14m

Redland, the building materials producer, raised pretax profits from £93.8 million to £108 million for the year to March 30. Turnover was £1,347 million against £1,184 million.

Tempus, page 19

The next meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will start on July 5 in Vienna. The meeting was originally fixed for July 22 and then brought forward to June 30. The putting back of the date was interpreted in financial markets as a sign that oil price worries are diminishing.

ACT soars

Applied Computer Techniques lifted profits from £4.64 million to £10.6 million before tax in the year to March 31. Turnover was up from £50.8 million to £92.4 million and the dividend is raised from 0.7p to 1.5p.

Tempus, page 19

Taylor cash call

Taylor Woodrow, the construction group, is to raise £42.3 million, net of expenses, by way of a one-for-five rights issue at 370p.

Tempus, page 19

Banking rise

Brown Shipley, the merchant banking group, pushed up disclosed profits from £2.64 million to £3.43 million after tax in the year to March 31. Its banking side did notably better and insurance broking was also up.

NOTHING SUCCEEDS LIKE SUCCESS

"Profits before tax have increased by an impressive 30%"

WK Roberts, Chairman

YEAR'S RESULTS £ MILLIONS	84/85	83/84	82/83
SALES	185.6	173.0	156.7
PROFIT BEFORE TAX	8.27	6.36	4.28
EARNINGS PER SHARE	39.5p	32.5p	21.8p

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THE TIMES Portfolio

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No.	Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
1	BANKS DISCOUNT HP				
2	Barclays				
3	HSBC				
4	City				
5	Windsor				
6	Standard Chartered				
7	Nat West				
8	Barclays				
9	Allied Irish				
10	Bank of Ireland				
11	ROOFS				
12	Somerset				
13	West Trade Ship				
14	Windsor				
15	Windsor				
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34	Windsor				
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37	Windsor				
38	Windsor				
39	Windsor				
40	Windsor				

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS	
Share	Price
100	100.00

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	
Share	Price
100	100.00

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	
Share	Price
100	100.00

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	
Share	Price
100	100.00

UNDATED	
Share	Price
100	100.00

INDEX-LINKED	
Share	Price
100	100.00

PROSPECTIVE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	
Share	Price
100	100.00

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E	
1	100.00

BANKS DISCOUNT HP	
Share	Price
100	100.00

ELECTRICALS	
Share	Price
100	100.00

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares retreat again

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, June 3. Dealings End, Today. Contango Day, June 17. Settlement Day, June 24.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E	
1	100.00

BUILDING AND ROADS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

CINEMAS AND TV

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

DRAPEY AND STORES

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

INDUSTRIALS A-D

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

INDUSTRIALS E-K

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

INDUSTRIALS L-R

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E	
1	100.00

FINANCE AND LAND

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

FOODS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

HOTELS AND CATERERS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

MINING

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

OVERSEAS TRADERS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTG

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

PROPERTY

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

SHIPPING

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E	
1	100.00

INSURANCE

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

LEISURE

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

TEXTILES

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

TOBACCO

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

WINE

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

YACHTS

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

ZOO

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

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1	100.00			

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Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTG

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

PROPERTY

Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	100.00			

SHIPPING

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TEXTILES

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TOBACCO

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WINE

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ANOTHER SPLENDID HALF OF GUINNESS.

"I'm delighted to announce very favourable half-year results for Guinness PLC.

Profits of £37.2 million for the six months ended 31st March 1985 are a record. They represent an increase over the same period last year of 23%. Profits for the U.K. alone increased by 67% to £14.9 million.

This is the seventh successive time I've had improved performance to report, so I think our aim to establish Guinness PLC as a dynamic consumer products and services company with exciting long term prospects can be said to have been achieved.

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

In many ways it's a new Guinness, with four ingredients. International Beverages, Retailing, Healthcare and Publishing.

These satisfy one or both of our twin growth strategies.

Profit growth for today, by continuous improvement in our established businesses, International Beverages and Retailing.

Profit growth for tomorrow by investment in growth sectors within our established businesses and in exciting new areas such as Healthcare and Publishing.

Vital to the success of both these strategies is the new management team assembled over the past three years.

Today's results reflect their work.

The effectiveness of our strategies and management is best illustrated by the fact that this year, earnings per share have increased by 17% and the net dividend has increased by 10% to a record 2.00p.

INTERNATIONAL BEVERAGES

Brewing is our solid foundation. Trading profits have increased by 13%.

In our traditional home markets the positive impact of our marketing thrust designed to re-vitalize the Guinness Brands continues.

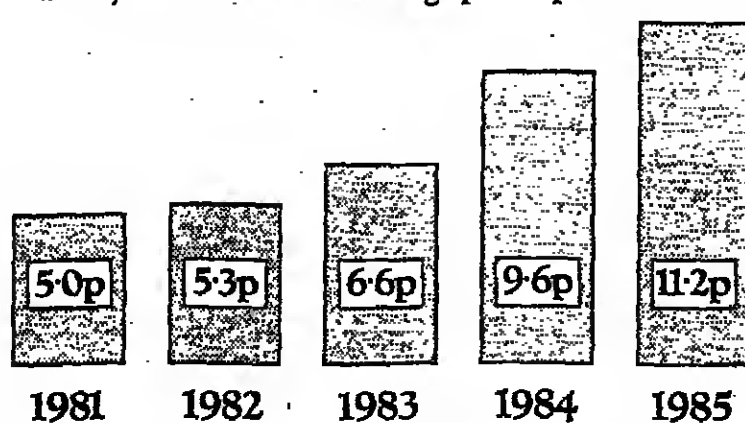
£30.9m

Half-year pre-tax profits to March 1984.

£37.2m

Half-year pre-tax profits to March 1985.

Half years to March. Earnings per 25p stock unit.



Volume sales of Draught Guinness in Britain and Ireland have increased.

In the U.S., the Guinness Import Company continues to out-perform the others in its sector of the market, and the growth rate in Germany has also accelerated.

RETAILING

We see retailing as a major growth area for Guinness PLC.

The way Martin the Newsagent chain has already performed since our acquisition last year is very encouraging.

Lavells, our other newsagent chain, enjoys industry-best profitability.

Further evidence of our wish to expand in retailing has been our acquisition of the 7-Eleven chain. A unique concept in convenience shopping.

HEALTHCARE

We have identified Healthcare as an area of outstanding growth potential, and our portfolio currently consists of Champneys Health Spas in Hertfordshire and Stobo Castle in Scotland and Nature's Best Health Products.

PUBLISHING

Guinness Publishing has had an injection of new management and now accounts for some fifty titles.

The division has expanded its operation too, into the Guinness World of Records Exhibition at London's Piccadilly Circus.

Earlier, I described the company as the new Guinness. But an adaptation of our famous slogan from the past seems appropriate. Guinness is good for investors."

Ernest W. Saunders
ERNEST W. SAUNDERS, Chief Executive

GUINNESS PLC
GUINNESS IS GOOD FOR INVESTORS

Practical

By John Blunsden

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THE TIMES 1785-1985

In spite of defence cuts the Royal Navy still remains a potent force at sea. This eight page Bicentenary Special Report examines its crucial role today - not forgetting its glorious past

What the Falklands showed us

By Rodney Cowton
Defence Correspondent



The Royal Navy is in a better state of health than anyone would have predicted four years ago when it faced the prospect of swinging cuts under the 1981 defence review. The worst of these have been averted: the navy still retains its amphibious assault ships, it will continue to operate three light aircraft carriers, and the force of destroyers and frigates is being run down to a lesser extent than was threatened.

The Navy, though, still has major pre-occupations - over the rate of building of frigates and diesel-powered submarines, the replacement in the 1990s of the assault ships HMS Fearless and Intrepid, and concern that men and ships are being overstretched. However, it is better to be struggling to cope with capabilities, rather than ruin the loss of them.

That the Navy is in this position is largely because fortune lived up to its reputation and favoured the

brave. In 1981 and 1982 the Navy, under the then First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Henry Leach, fought vigorously to invert what it saw as potentially disastrous cuts. Then along came the Falklands conflict, the Royal Navy's biggest action since the Second World War, and this transformed its prospects.

In the late 20th century it was no longer in the perceived scheme of things that the Royal Navy should be asked to mount a major task force to operate at a range of 8,000 miles, and to land an assault force on a hostile shore without benefit of land-based air support, or even means of receiving early warning of air attack.

The primary role of the Navy was, and remains, to operate in the wide open spaces of the eastern Atlantic and the North Sea. Instead, its frigates and other ships found themselves in the confined waters of the Falkland Sound, slogging it out with Argentine aircraft, which appeared with little warning.

The Navy has benefited from this experience in two ways: Firstly it,

brought a perception that if Britain is to maintain a sizeable navy, it has to be capable of operating in a wide variety of roles. Secondly, it demonstrated that in the long years of peace the navy had become too comfortable, and had lost sight of the severity of the stresses which battle produces. The men reacted superbly to those stresses, but deficiencies in the ships and their equipment were exposed.

The Argentine was no more than a third rank military power. Apart from the brief, tragic incident of the Belgrano, neither its surface fleet nor its submarines were engaged in the open sea, and for all the courage of the Argentine air force, it failed in the basic requirement of fusing its bombs correctly.

Despite all these limitations, in six weeks of action the Argentinians tested the Royal Navy to the point where over 200 measures to improve the ships' fighting capabilities were identified. They include more effective close-in defence systems and better clothing and equipment for crews. Materials

which emit heavy, toxic smoke when ignited are being eliminated, and means of controlling the spread of fire and smoke are being improved. Personal oxygen supplies to enable people to breathe in smoke have been greatly improved.

The nightly demoralising naval bombardment of the Argentine positions ashore also reminded people that a frigate is all the more useful if it has a long-range gun. The new frigate, the Type 23 Duke class, will now have such a gun.

The exposure by the Argentine planes of the critical lack of an airborne early warning system has led to eight Sea King helicopters being equipped to fulfil that role. They are coming into service this summer.

Again, the number of Sea Harriers in an air group on the Invincible class carriers is being increased from five to eight. However, there will be only two groups, serving three carriers, and even though for much of the time one of the carriers will be undergoing maintenance or refit, the Fleet Air Arm finds it

unsatisfactory that there will not be an air group for every carrier.

The navy will be a more effective force as a result of these moves but there are also other factors which have been advancing the Royal Navy's cause.

The Soviet navy has for years been extending its reach until now it has virtually world-wide capability. It is primarily the job of the United States navy to counter this development, but it is often politically helpful if the Americans can be seen to be acting in concert with ships of allied navies, such as the British and French.

In certain circumstances even the mighty United States navy, building up towards a 600 ship fleet, could find itself over-stretched and it helps the allied cause if the British Navy is able to take up some slack in the naval presence in the Nato area, or to assist in other parts of the world.

But if recent world events have assisted the case for maintaining an effective British Navy, the perennial

problem of finding the resources to finance it shows every sign of becoming more acute.

The Government is now in the final year of its attempt to meet the Nato target of achieving an annual 3 per cent growth in the real value of defence spending. From next April the objective will be to maintain the real value of spending at its present level.

It is a delicate enough task to turn the corner from real growth to zero growth, but there are those who believe that the true prospect could be for some small reduction in the real value of defence spending, and that would present the services with real problems.

Spending on naval assets will in any case be running at a high level as the Trident programme gains impetus, and with the need for a substantial level of building of frigates and submarines. Already it looks as though the Navy's wish for a new class of offshore patrol vessel may not materialize for some years.

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Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse on board HMS Olympus, an Oberon-class submarine: "The price of peace is high and rising"

Readiness, the Navy's watchword

by Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse,
First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff

In this year during which we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War it is tempting to imagine that between then and now we have been at peace. However, it is sad that in this uncertain world conflict is endemic. Indeed in these 40 years there has been only one in which no British serviceman has been killed on active duty.

It is against this background that the Services play their part in ensuring that our country is adequately protected and its people assured the freedom to do their lawful business in the world.

It should be obvious, though I fear it is often overlooked, that in a world 70 per cent covered by sea and with most countries having a coastline, the sea is crucial to an island such as ours. The arteries of world trade are still, seaborne, despite the fact that orchids and avocado pears are flown across the world, and most people travel by air. Well over 90 per cent of all trade and raw material arrives and departs from European countries by sea. The United Kingdom alone needs 300 ship-loads a week to subsist. The point is brought home dramatically when, in a matter of a few weeks at the most, a dock strike puts our well-being seriously at risk. We are a trading nation and need to import raw materials and food and to export finished products, including North Sea oil.

All this has a familiar ring and would have made absolute sense to our forebears over the centuries. From Athens and Carthage, through the Middle Ages and Napoleonic wars to the present times, sea power has shown itself repeatedly to be a necessary adjunct of international position: time and again its possession has conferred supremacy and its denial ensured defeat.

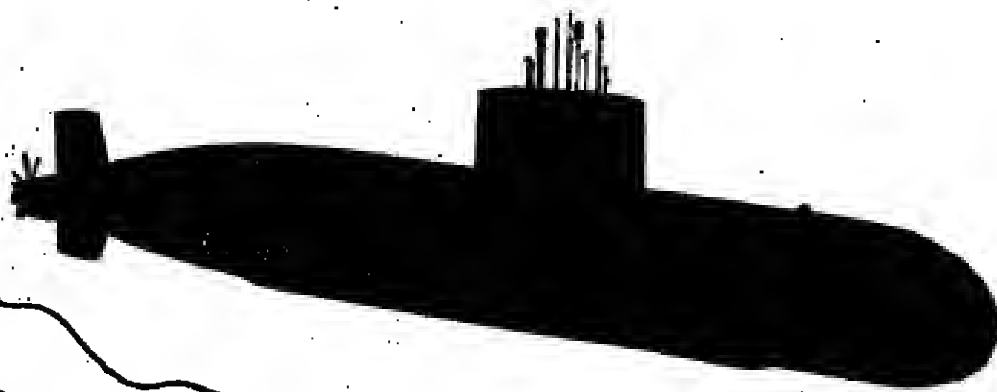
The sea is a huge international medium connecting almost every country, and it affords governments the option to project influence at any level from a patrol vessel up to a carrier battle group without specific commitment or breach of international law.

It is against this background that the Royal Navy of today has evolved. In the ensuing articles it will become

continued on page 32

Page 32: Nato's sheet anchor • Page 33: HMS Active • Page 34: The policing role • Page 35: Britain's protectors • Page 36: Royal Marines and Fleet Air Arm • Page 37: The cost

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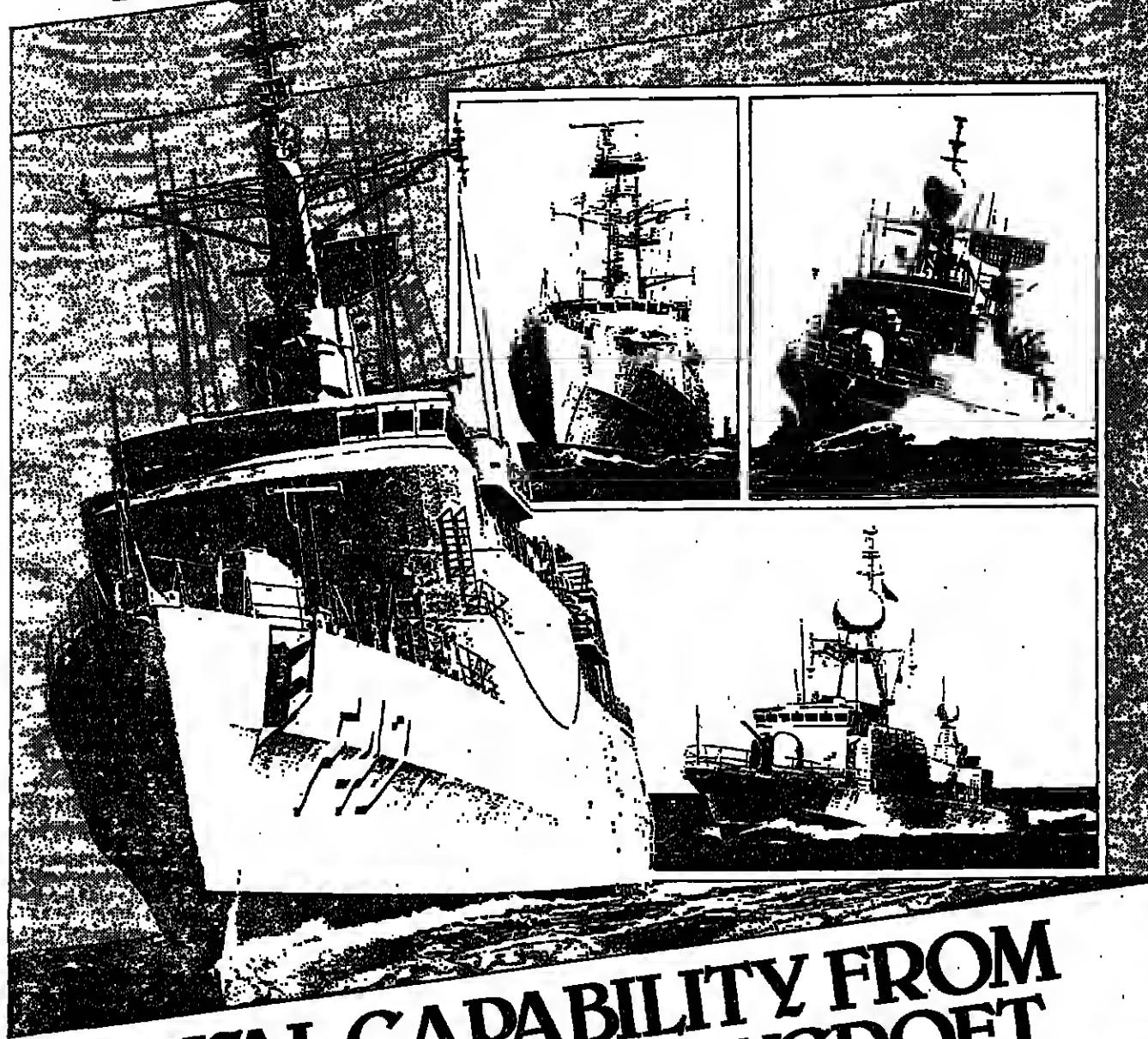
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THE ROYAL NAVY/2

FOCUS

The sheet anchor of Nato



Most of Britain's armed forces and 95 per cent of their budgets are now committed to the North Atlantic alliance, whose philosophy of collective security has dominated British defence objectives for 36 years.

Under the old doctrine of massive retaliation, any attack by the Soviet Union on the West would have invited a full-scale nuclear response by the United States and Britain. This awesome threat lost its credibility in the 1960s when it became clear that the Russians were now capable of striking back and causing great damage in the United States. America's protective umbrella might not have started to develop leaks, but the hand that was holding it was beginning to wobble.

Flexible response means that Nato would reply to a Russian attack as the circumstances demanded, reserving the right to "go nuclear" if conventional defences failed. Flexible response has therefore demanded a "triad" of arms - conventional, tactical nuclear and strategic nuclear - to embrace the concepts of deterrence and defence, and convince any likely aggressor that Nato was, to borrow the motto of the Parachute Regiment "Ready for anything."

Meanwhile, the need to find a deterrent less vulnerable than the manned long-range bomber, had led the Americans to develop the Polaris submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM). This was sold to Britain at a bargain price in 1962.

Britain built its own warheads and designed the submarines to carry them. The first of these each armed with 16 missiles, came into service in 1967, the year of flexible response, and three others followed with impressive speed and efficiency. The navy inherited from the RAF the responsibility for bearing the country's ultimate deterrent. It looks as if it will continue to do so during the third generation of the Age of Deterrence. A Government programme to procure the Trident multiple-warhead missile from the United States in succession to Polaris, is still on course despite doubts in Parliament over the impact of its £10,000m cost upon other parts of the defence budget. The first of four new submarines to take over in the 1990s, will be ordered this year.

Tactical nuclear weapons are represented at sea by the bombs of the dual-capable Sea Harriers on board the three Invincible-class aircraft carriers, and by nuclear depth charges. But it is the third, the conventional role with which most people associate the Royal Navy. The Navy has still the biggest fleet in Western Europe and the third most powerful in the world. As the fleet headquarters in landlocked Northwood, Middlesex, is fond of reminding visitors, Britain still provides 70 per cent of Nato warships in the Eastern Atlantic.

One of the three principal Nato commands, that of the Eastern Atlantic and Channel, is invariably vested in the fleet's own commander-in-chief at Norway to the Straits of Gibraltar, a vast area of sea whose importance to East and West in wartime can hardly be too heavily underscored.

The survival of Western Europe in wartime would depend upon American reinforcements reaching the Old World from the New. Lightly armed troops whose heavy equipment has already been positioned in Germany could be ferried across the Atlantic by air. But others bringing their vehicles with them would in turn depend upon Nato navies keeping the sea lanes open.

The Soviet Union's northern fleet based at Murmansk has more than 180 submarines, nearly 50 of them ballistic missile boats. It follows that the sea area known as the Greenland-Iceland-United Kingdom (GIUK) Gap would be of crucial importance to both sides in the event of global conflict. But so too would the entrance to the Baltic and the huge Soviet ship repair yards in Western Russia.

It is commonly assumed that the Soviet Union would need to take swift action on the outbreak of hostilities to ensure relatively free access for its ships to the North Sea and Atlantic. The least it would need to do would be to get as many submarines as it could, through the GIUK Gap and into open sea before allied action to patrol the gap by force.

But they would also be likely to move against Norway and Denmark, the two Nato countries from which some degree of strategic control might be exercised.

It is envisaged that Britain in wartime would resemble a giant aircraft carrier and transit camp, from which men and supplies would be shipped to the Continent. This too carries immense implications for the "Channel" command hat worn by the commander at Northwood.

But the range of Nato responsibilities, from one part of the "triad" to the next, impinges upon the shape of the fleet.

It means, for example, that the Royal Navy has to maintain a balanced fleet. It needs carriers capable of taking anti-submarine helicopters to police the Atlantic sea lanes and Sea Harriers to protect against enemy attack and to support amphibious landings.

It needs escort vessels for convoy duties, armed with anti-aircraft missiles and anti-submarine sonar depth charges and torpedoes. It needs minesweepers and nuclear-powered submarines especially near the approaches to the Clyde where our own Polaris boats pass to and from their base at Faslane. Recent Government announcements have confirmed its intention to maintain 50 destroyers and escorts in the active fleet, which is something of a relief to the Royal Navy.

Henry Stanhope

Readiness is our watchword

continued from page 31

apparent that readiness and flexibility must be the Royal Navy's watchwords in an increasingly dangerous and unpredictable age. Nothing could have demonstrated this more clearly than the Falklands conflict.

The constituent parts of the Task Force, which was an entire cross section of the Royal Navy, together with vital supporting partners, are examined fully later in this report. The Royal Navy is constantly evolving to meet changing circumstances. At the top end is the continuing deployment of the nuclear deterrent to safeguard our national sovereignty and protect us from blackmail. Next is our naval contribution to Nato to defend the vital Atlantic reinforcement links without which Europe cannot survive, and also to provide an ability to deploy maritime forces, which would include our renowned Royal Marine commandos to protect the no less vital northern flank. Finally, and we must not forget this, we have to possess that strategic flexibility necessary to enable us to meet our commitments beyond Nato's boundaries.

Today, for example, there are two frigates in the area of the Gulf, frigates and submarines are deployed in the South Atlantic, and ships in the Caribbean and home waters are specifically detailed to be at immediate notice to meet contingencies.

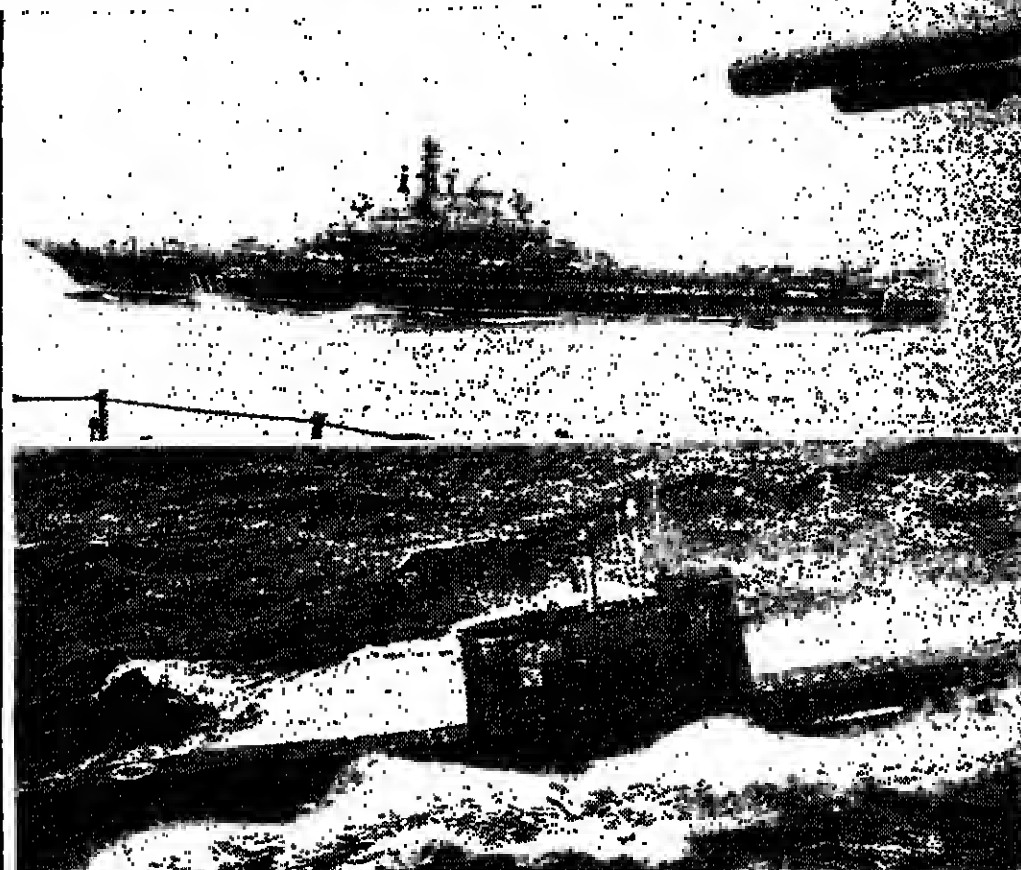
As well as tasks such as these, ships or groups of ships, invariably with Fleet Air Arm units, often with Royal Marines embarked, and supported by the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and the Royal Navy Supply and Transport Service, are frequently deployed whenever a need to show a presence is perceived.

In addition, our historical links with the Merchant Navy have been strengthened further since the Falklands conflict and the Ministry of Defence, together with the Department of Trade, are keeping a careful watch on the strength of our merchant fleet, which is so much a part of seapower, and upon which we as a country will always rely.

It is an inescapable fact that, with the ever growing capability of potential enemies, the price of peace is high and the value of money. That value will inevitably be to a degree a matter of compromise. There must be a core of highly capable ships and submarines; we have them in the current fleet and for the future we look forward to such new classes as the new Type 23 frigate, the Type 2400 conventional submarine and the 'one stop' replenishment vessel as well as the versatile EH101 helicopter.

However, it is equally necessary to ensure we sustain the overall numbers of ships and aircraft because numbers are essential, as well as high quality. Furthermore the fleet must continue to have an all-round capability to fulfil its purpose and utilize to best advantage the infinite options of the high seas and counter the variable capabilities of the opposing threat.

Finally, as I come to the end of my term as First Sea Lord, I pay tribute to that priceless asset - our people. It is the quality of those with whom I have been lucky enough to serve that remain my most indelible memory and in which I have enormous pride. It is a fortunate nation indeed that is able to produce, year after year, people who sustain so well our enviable national maritime heritage.



Opposition at sea: The Soviet cruiser/carrier Novorossiysk and one of their fleet submarines.

A peep at the opposition

A populous island with a long coastline, dependant for its well-being on external trade, is pretty silly if it is not alert to threat by sea. For the 200 years of *The Times's* existence Britain's alertness has waxed and waned but been generally sufficient to serve the nation's interests; whether it is so now is uncertain.

Because the most severe threat is currently answered by a superpower alliance, Nato, and its options are blocked by the successful doctrine of flexible response, the temptation to complacency is understandable. But the threat is contained, it has not gone away.

Russia has generally had a large navy, to match her very scattered maritime security interests and, sometimes, ambitions. Its quality has varied greatly over the years. What is seen now is an exceptionally powerful upswing in that quality with little or no diminution in numbers.

The Soviet northern fleet alone has some 40 ballistic missile and 140 tactical submarines, over half of them nuclear-powered. 80 major surface combatants, from a jump-jet carrier through powerful cruisers to a modern destroyer and frigate force, more than 300 land-based aircraft including over 100 with anti-ship missiles; a naval infantry brigade with sufficient specialized amphibious shipping; and an increasing number of ocean-going auxiliaries.

Other fleets - Baltic, Black Sea and Pacific - are tailored for their theatres, the Pacific's being particularly powerful and wide-ranging. The Soviet merchant and fishing fleets, respectively fifth and first in world rankings and under firm government control, support both state policy and military potential.

Soviet naval development has not been short on technical innovation. In all fields on, over and beneath the surface, there has been emphasis on missile armament. Earlier reliance on nuclear warheads at long range has been replaced by a diversity of systems, capable at many levels of conflict.

Hull and machinery design, particularly in submarines, has pushed back technical boundaries, often at great cost. In the newer surface ships weapon density, notably in self-defence systems, is marked. Their design suggests that these vessels are intended to have a good chance of survival in battle.

The trend, in the words and aspirations of its chief beguiler Admiral Gorshkov, is towards a balanced fleet: a fleet capable of carrying out and sustaining a very wide range of maritime operations. Its material development has been matched, tentatively at first but with increasing confidence, by the deployment and handling of fleet units on, over and beneath the oceans.

A decade and a half ago there were indications that only a small proportion of the ships and submarines were allowed to

small comfort to those nations whose prime interest is in sea use; and particularly to Nato, which surely can foresee no successful outcome to any major campaign unless it retains the use of the Atlantic.

At least, however, the Royal Navy in its contemplation of the Soviet opposition can reflect that the United States Navy is the Russians' main preoccupation. Even to the unlikely, and grisly, circumstances of British-Soviet confrontation without direct US involvement, the Russians would always look over their shoulders.

It is not so with other maritime threats to the United Kingdom's interests. On many occasions over the past three decades the Royal Navy confronted such threats with no likelihood of active United States involvement. The Falklands campaign of 1982 was but the most severe of a set of operations of great diversity that included Kuwait, the Indonesian Confrontation, the support of Belize and the fishing disputes with Iceland.

The scale of opposition can on this evidence vary widely. At the top end of the scale are medium-power maritime forces, typically with a light aircraft carrier and a destroyer-escort force of some dozens, shore-based air support and a small force of conventionally-powered submarines.

A handful of non-Nato nations have such forces. But smaller navies than these can still pack a punch and they are much more numerous. Nearly 30 non-Nato countries operate submarines and more than 70 have missile-armed surface units.

Given the increasing economic importance, and heightened national perceptions, of the sea, particularly among developing countries, there is not much prospect of a placid future in the maritime field.

For, given the increasing economic importance, and heightened national perceptions, of the sea, particularly among developing countries, there is not much prospect of a placid future in the maritime field.

Finally, when looking at the opposition it is unwise to forget the minor threats much closer to home, the rogue ship in the wrong time lane, the potentially fishing vessel, the drug trafficker, the terrorist, gun-runner or saboteur, the polluter and - even now - the pirate.

by Rear Admiral Richard Hill

deploy out of the local fleet areas; the commanding officers and crews of the rest were too inexperienced to be trusted.

That inhibition seems largely to have disappeared. The resulting flexibility has helped the Soviet Navy to attain its present considerable effectiveness as a diplomatic instrument.

To predict the employment of Soviet maritime forces in conflict is, in keeping with their increased versatility, a much less cut-and-dried business than it used to be.

At lower levels of confrontation or conflict, whether inside or outside the Nato area (and it is worth recalling that at any given moment there are likely to be 40 Soviet units in the Mediterranean and 25 in the Indian Ocean, as well as Atlantic and Pacific activity and directed deployments in other areas from time to time) the Soviet Navy may be expected to act in a controlled, pragmatic way in pursuit of limited objectives and under careful rules of engagement. If it embarks on warfare at the higher level it is likely to put great emphasis on getting in the first blow, particularly against any perceived threat to the Soviet homeland; but there is less emphasis on its being a "one-shot navy" than there used to be.

Finally, in general war there is a noteworthy preoccupation with the preservation of the ballistic missile submarines in the Barents and Okhotsk Sea "bastions" from which their missiles can reach the US; a quite high proportion of Soviet forces might be assigned to their protection.

When all is said and done the Soviet navy is still predominantly a sea-denial force. This is

But they would also have to move against the Danes, to Denmark, to two strategic air bases from which control could be exercised.

It is envisaged that in wartime Germany would use aircraft carrier and submarine supplies would be shipped to the Continent. This has immense implications for the "Channel" command to be by the commander of the wood.

But the range of responsibilities, from the of the "trident" to the impinges upon the ship's fleet.

It means, for example, the Royal Navy has to maintain a balanced fleet of submarines capable of taking the submarine helicopters to the Atlantic sea lanes to Harpers to protect the enemy, attack and to amphibious landings.

It breeds other responsibilities, armed forces, aircraft, missiles and submarine sonar devices and torpedoes. It needs sweepers and nuclear submarines, especially the approach, the City of our own Poland from and from their base at the Recent Government has intention to continue destroyers and escort active fleet, which is a relief to the Royal Navy.

Henry Stiles

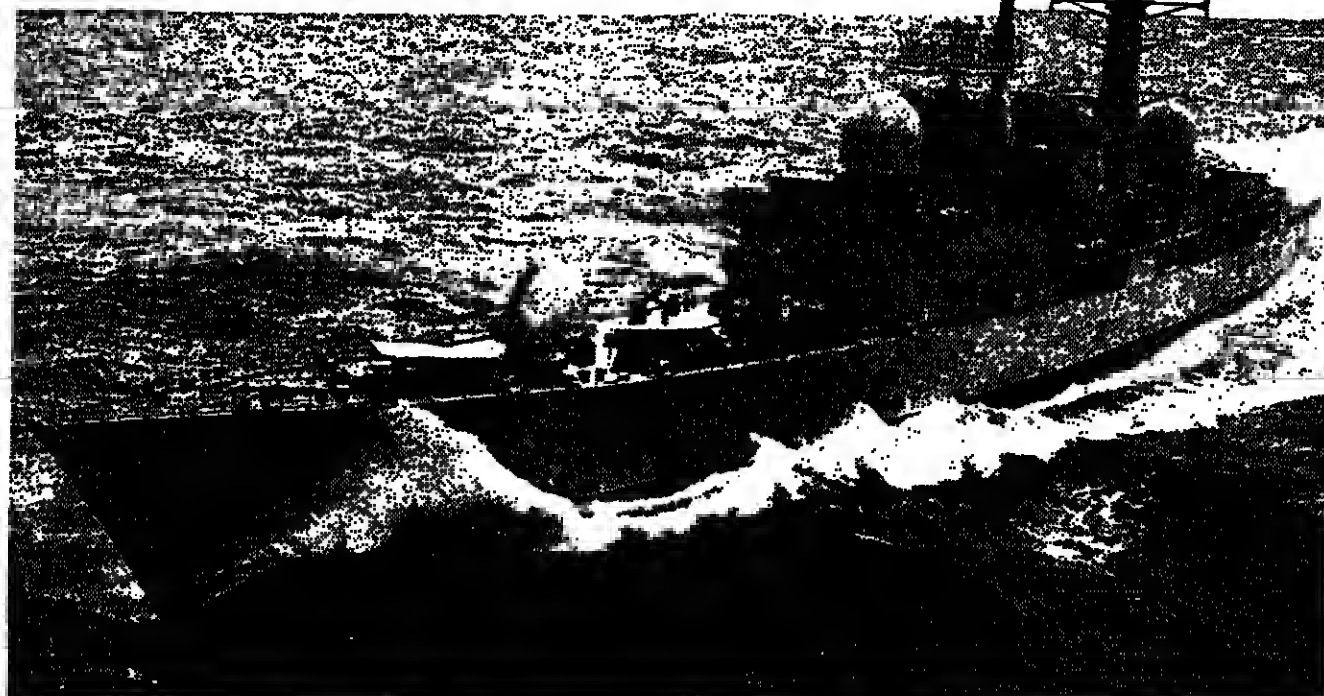
- 14 Harbour Quartermasters
- 15 Action First Aid Party
- 16 Action Fire Fighting Team
- 17 Bridge Watch Keeping Officers
- 18 Weapons Engineer Officer
- 19 Marine Engineer Officer
- 20 Supply Officer
- 21 Operations Room Team
- 22 First Lieutenant
- 23 Commander AJC Morrow
Commanding Officer
- 24 Diving Team

The ship's company of HMS Active shown in their specialist roles. HMS Active is an Amazon Class Type 21 frigate with a crew of 170. This picture was taken for the The Times by Richard Cooke from the ship's Lynx helicopter

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With every modern facility at our command, Cammell Laird can undertake the build of any size of surface ship or submarine for the navies of the world, and can convert merchant ships for special fleet roles. We also have the capability and experience to refit ships, submarines and auxiliaries to exact specifications.

This year, Cammell Laird will lay the keel of a Type 22 Batch III Frigate of the Broadsword Class under contract from the Ministry of Defence (N).



HMS EDINBURGH

HMS LIVERPOOL

RFA BRAMBLELEAF

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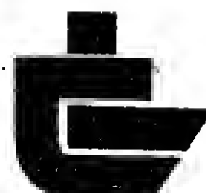
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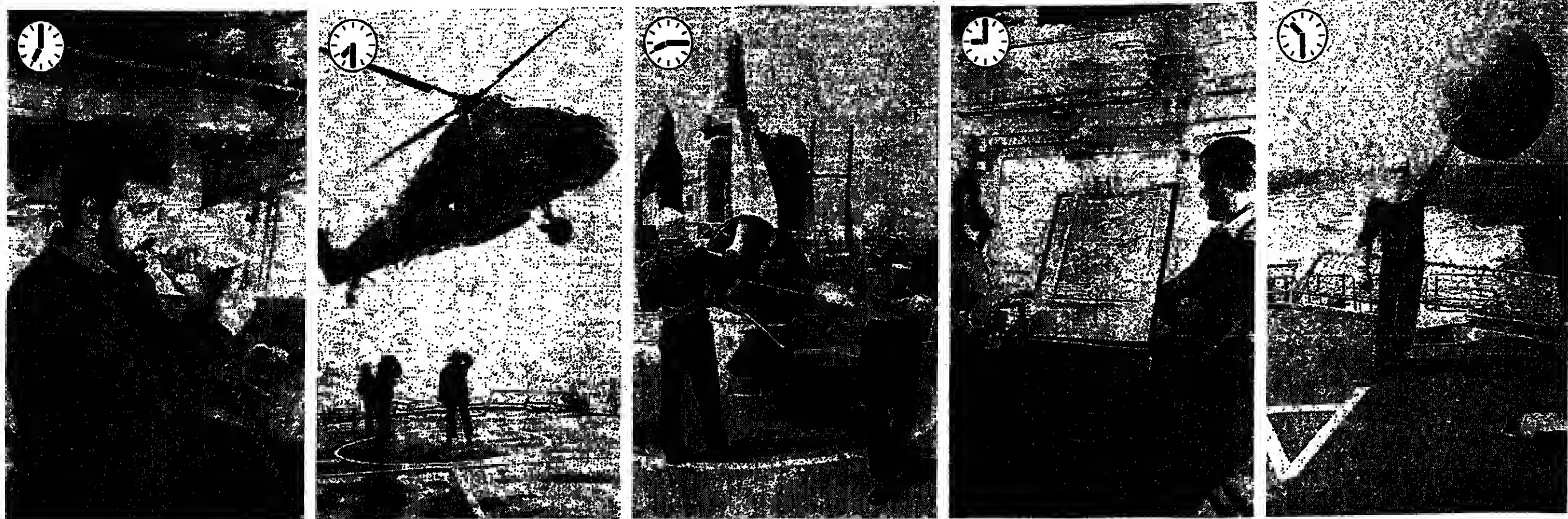


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This flexibility of purpose is matched by a range of means which stretches all the way from white uniforms officers at a cocktail party on a goodwill visit to a port, to all-out military action combining surface, submarine, land and air forces, such as was seen in the Falkland Islands.

With the demise of the big aircraft carriers with their steam catapults, the Royal Navy can no longer match the power of the American carrier groups with their long range offensive air power and the multi-layers of air defences stretching out several hundred miles.

It still does, however, as the Falklands showed, retain the ability to put to sea an autonomous force backed by the logistic support of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and ships of the merchant navy.

In the war the sea is at least as dangerous a place to be as the land, and arguably more dangerous, for to the common hazards of surface and air attack is added the threat of submarine attack. This multiple threat means that an effective naval force has to blend a range of responses to every threat, with submarines, surface ships and aircraft, whether sea- or land-based, co-operating to close off every threat.

In the Falklands the combination of elements of naval power produced an unexpectedly rapid military success. The surface ships got the troops and their supplies ashore, after the tragic incident of the Belgrano the presence of British submarines ensured that the Argentine ships stayed close to port, and the carrier-based Sea Harriers of the Royal Navy and Harriers of the Royal Air Force performed prodigies. Nevertheless, the whole operation was potentially at risk from one

deficiency: the force lacked long range warning of air attack and in consequence had a desperate struggle to keep the Argentine air force at bay.

Now that the Royal Navy no longer has battleships, nor (with HMS Hermes oow in reserve) an aircraft carrier of more than 20,000 tons, its capital ships are its submarines.

There is the obvious, even if mostly invisible, power of the Polaris vessels carrying the strategic nuclear missiles. However, they are the Dooomsday weapon, and it is the nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarines and the diesel-powered Oberon-class patrol

submarines which integrate

the outstanding feature of the Falklands conflict was not as a feat of arms but as a feat of logistics

submarines which integrate the outstanding feature of the Falklands conflict was not as a feat of arms but as a feat of logistics

Whatever the strains on financial resources, and how intense the debate about the future size and shape of the surface fleet, it seems likely that means will be found to maintain the force of hunter-killer and patrol submarines.

However it is also time that one of the most obvious areas of concern is the fact that all but one of the Royal Navy's diesel-powered Oberon class submarines are over 20 years old. At present there is only one replacement for these submarines - the first of the new Type 2400 Upholder class - under construction.

It will require a substantial and sustained rate of ordering over several years if the transition from the Oberon class to the Upholder class is to be accomplished without a dip in numbers for a few years. However, the Ministry of Defence is already examining tenders for the construction of the second, third and fourth Type 2400 submarines.

This demand on resources coincides with an equally pressing need to step up the rate of ordering of new frigates. Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, has already indicated his intention to order three Type 23 Duke class frigates next year, but this rate will have to be sustained for five or six years if the Government is to reach its target of 50 reasonably modern destroyers and frigates; such a rate has not been sustained since the 1960s.

One area in which the navy's position is stronger than seemed possible a few years ago, when Sir John Nott was starting to lay about him with his axe, is that of naval aviation. The Government intends to maintain three invulnerable light aircraft carriers with, normally, two operational and one in refit.

The dependence on the short-take off Sea Harrier means that British naval aviation is no longer in the same league as the big American carriers with their variety of aircraft launched by steam catapult.

The two assault ships HMS Fearless and HMS Intrepid had only recently been reprieved from being scrapped when the South Atlantic suddenly produced the perfect demonstration of the need for "amphibiousness".

Though the need to retain an amphibious capability is now much more readily accepted by Government than it was in 1981, a fair amount of sucking of gums is now going on over the question of what should replace Fearless and Intrepid in the mid-1990s.

The outstanding feature of the Falklands conflict was not as a feat of arms, but as a feat of logistics. To carry over 25,000 men and their supplies 8,000 miles was a huge undertaking. It could not have been accomplished without the back-up of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and the STUFT ships - ships taken up from trade - of the merchant navy.

Another area of naval activity which will clearly be affected by developments in the civilian field is that of offensive and defensive operations involving mines.

Overall, the Royal Navy still remains one of the great navies of the world - though on a much smaller scale than either the American or Russian fleets - and it just about retains the necessary balance in the areas of surface ships, submarines, naval aviation and amphibious capability to be able to mounting a general naval operation. Nevertheless that balance is precarious, and is constantly at risk as defence competes for resources against other national demands, and the three Services jostle for position in claims on the defence budget.

RC

Policing the far horizons...



The one thing that can be forecast with any certainty about the next war is that it will be totally unlike what we have planned for. This might sound over-cynical amid the dying echoes of the Falklands War, whose air-sea battles resembled those of 1939-45, however different the weapons.

But who might have predicted in 1981 that a year later British troops would be fighting Argentina in the South Atlantic? The Falklands War, whatever its rights and wrongs, thus proved two things - first, that the country's commitment to the residual legacy of the British Empire remained more than paper-thin; and second that Britain was still capable of sustaining an active operation on that scale, half the world away, despite the Nato bias in its force planning. Moreover, it was capable of doing so after being taken by surprise.

On the other hand the war justified the doubts of those who have argued for some time that the most likely threats to peace in our time will come out from Europe and its surrounding seas, but from parts of the world far beyond the protective embrace of the North Atlantic alliance. While this does not invalidate the Nato philosophy which has given shape to British defence policy for more than 30 years, it questions once more the provisions made to deal with out-of-area issues.

Britain is something of a special case. Old imperial commitments, economic as well as security, have complicated loyalties which for most of its European allies are simpler to manage.

But the out-of-area argument stretches far beyond the old imperial connection. Most unofficial pundits who engaged in the once fashionable exercise of hypothesizing over a third world war decided that its flashpoint would be found not in the heavily defended West, where *de facto* spheres of influence have been carefully drawn and observed since the Second World War, but in areas like the Middle East where the lines are less disciplined.

The United States, by virtue of its huge resources, has taken over the role of world policeman performed by this country in the era of the Pax Britannica. United States support was an important element in the Falklands War.

But for political, rather than military reasons Washington welcomes allied participation in operations where western interests are general are at stake. And Britain by virtue of its experience and maritime capability is best placed to contribute.

The Royal Navy's permanent presence outside the Nato area is painfully thin. An undisciplined number of frigate-

destroyers, with submarines and Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) support ships in attendance, remain in the Falklands, patrolling the 150-mile protection zone around the islands.

Four and eventually five of the new Peacock-class patrol ships will remain on station off Hong Kong, where they have replaced a squadron of old Ton-class minesweepers, until the colony is passed back to China in 1997. Hong Kong itself

the responsibility of shipping is more. As materials often have to come from beyond the Nato area, Britain and other allies would rely heavily on the co-operation of other navies to ensure their safe passage.

The Foreign Office moreover has a strong vested interest in preserving good relations with other governments in peacetime. Its considerations are therefore taken into account at a very early stage in planning

Government at home in touch with developments during the American intervention in Grenada nearly two years ago, when other means of communication were unreliable.

The argument therefore is out over whether Britain should continue to sail beyond Nato's sphere of influence. It is over whether more of Britain's resources should be devoted to doing so. To deploy force worldwide on a permanent



An unexpected war: Casualties landing on HMS Hermes during the Falkland campaign

already pays the bulk of its defence costs.

Two frigate-destroyers are kept in the Indian Ocean, with an RFA tanker, the so-called Armilla patrol. A guardship still cruises round the Caribbean. But a frigate is no longer permanently stationed at Gibraltar - although one often calls there. And that is it.

Every other year, however, the Navy usually undertakes a long-term task force deployment, which might involve a carrier, escorts and a submarine of two, more often than out in the Far East. Ships conduct a number of exercises en route with allied navies - those for instance belonging to the five-power defence agreement in South-East Asia (Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore). They also make a large number of port visits.

The Ministry of Defence is planning such a deployment for next year, during which the question of whether nuclear-capable warships will be allowed into New Zealand ports could cause complications.

One advantage of these biconical sorties is that they enable the Navy to test the efficacy of its equipment - and its men - in a variety of climates and conditions.

The exercises conducted on the way also provide a valuable opportunity to make contact with allies upon whom Britain may have to depend rather heavily for support in wartime.

If a third world war lasted longer than Nato seems to think it would, the limited supply of strategic materials maintained by Britain could soon expire, giving the mercantile marine

distant deployments. A port call on a friendly nation represents not so much gunboat as gun-bottle diplomacy.

With 30 per cent of the country's gross domestic product coming from exports, the maintenance of peace and stability in the Third World is of considerable importance to Britain. How much influence the presence of a Royal Navy gunboat can have on this is arguable. But it can at least be a valuable communications link, or a fact-finder for the Government at home.

It was the Caribbean guardship which kept the

basis would seem unwise given that defence resources in Britain are unlikely ever to be unlimited. Nato must remain the highest priority. But should the Government ensure that if an emergency occurred Britain could respond more easily?

The Falklands War proved that Britain could respond - but only just and at a price. Would we be contributing more towards Nato in the long-term by investing less in, say, our army in West Germany and more in the Navy overseas? The question is deeply divisive and the answers by no means easy.

Henry Stanhope

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THE ROYAL NAVY/5

Dockyard cuts raise ship shortage fears

Modern warships are among the most highly complex and sophisticated pieces of equipment around. With Royal Navy ships spending more time at sea they need considerable maintenance and repair to ensure their reliability. The shore support provided by the naval bases has to be first rate.

But as a result of the 1981 defence review, two of the five naval dockyards capable of doing this work have been closed in the last couple of years and a third has been scaled down.

The Government's plan for the two remaining royal dockyards is for more streamlining and efficiency. To this end Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, said he will announce a programme for their semi-privatisation before the Common's summer recess.

Devonport, near Plymouth, and Rosyth, on the Firth of Forth are the country's two main naval bases as well as the last of the big naval dockyards. Together they employ some 27,000 civilians, most of whom are involved in dockyard work repairing all the navy's nuclear-powered submarines, including polaris, and nearly all the conventional fleet.

The other naval bases are at Portsmouth, which ceased to be a royal dockyard last year but which can still carry out large-scale repair work and maintenance. Faslane, the nuclear submarine base on the Clyde; Portland, primarily engaged in trials of newly built or refitted ships; and Gibraltar, where the dockyard closed in January but which still plays an important role as a naval base and in Nato. Chatham royal Dockyard, in Kent, closed 15 months ago.

"The days of hauling ropes, swigging rum and lighting blue

touch paper have all gone," says Mr David Lewis, head of the Ministry of Defence's dockyard secretariat in London. "The modern sailor is a highly proficient technician."

"The bulk of a ship goes around an impressive array of propulsion machinery, weapons, sensor systems, computers and, in some cases, aircraft and helicopters with their own weapons, sensors and computers. So the shore support must be able to cope."

Refits, done at Rosyth and Devonport, are more complicated than building. About every four or five years ships and submarines go in for rigorous servicing, repairs and the fitting of new equipment. This can take more than a year.

To speed up the process and get the ship back to sea as soon as possible there is "refit by replacement", whereby an old unit such as a sonar will be taken out whole and replaced by a new one.

Heseltine aims for value for money

Between refits, ships go into dry dock for shorter periods for the rectification of any defects that have occurred. In certain cases there is also a "capability update period" where a ship is fitted with more advanced equipment to keep it at the forefront of modern technology. At other times crews, with some naval support, maintain their ships themselves.

In the past, many ships went in for mid-life modernization, which was much more substantial than refitting. But because of the cost - up to £80 million - these are no longer carried out.

The Government's intention of changing the structure of the

royal dockyards - with the aim of getting "full value from the defence budget" - was announced by Mr Heseltine in April.

The main objectives set out by Mr Heseltine were: "First, local managers must have the freedom and authority to manage in a more competitive environment. Second, the dockyards as suppliers of services to the fleet must be separated clearly from their customer. Third, their financial and accounting arrangements must reflect normal commercial practice so that the true price of the work can be judged."

The Government favours a system of commercial management under which each dockyard, while remaining in government ownership, would be operated for a period of years by a company under contract.

This would need legislation and would not happen before 1987. But before then there are to be 2,000 job losses at Devonport and 400 at Rosyth in a bid to improve productivity in the short term.

The dockyards did a tremendous job during the Falklands campaign preparing warships for sea, even though some men had already received their redundancy notices. In addition, 46 merchant ships were requisitioned and converted in an average of four days each.

Run down the yards even further, say the critics, and in a similar crisis the navy would be short of ships.

The Government's answer is that it wants to increase efficiency, not cut capability. The royal dockyards, together with the commercial yards which have recently been doing some refits for the Navy, would be able to cope.

MI



... Preparing lunch in the galley: the captain berths the ship; sailors relax at the end of the day. Pictures Richard Cooke.

... safeguarding the home front



The development of air power and long-range missiles would have shocked John of Gaunt, prattling about Britain being "this fortress built by Nature for herself" in Shakespeare's *Richard II*. Indeed, the evaporation of the Channel as a protective moat, actually did shock a generation of governments who reacted by neglecting what used to be known as the home front. The solution was seen to be nuclear deterrence and forward defence - stopping the enemy in his tracks long before he reached Calais.

This is largely still the case. But in recent years ministers have also been obliged to turn their attention to the "shortfalls in capability" which, this year's Defence White Paper admitted, had built up here at home.

There are a number of reasons for this counterbalancing act. They fall under two main headings - the adoption of flexible response as Nato's strategy with the new emphasis on conventional defence, and the adoption of a 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with the concomitant development of the North Sea oil and gas wells.

In wartime the United Kingdom would become not only a forward base for ships and aircraft operating in the Eastern Atlantic but a support base for troops on the Continent. It follows that entry and exit to and from our ports must be safeguarded.

The most serious threat to our coastal approaches is expected to arise during the period of tension preceding a war, when covert minelaying must be expected by Soviet merchantmen in home waters. As many as 1,400 merchant ship visits by Warsaw Pact countries excluding the Soviet Union, and 1,300 by the Soviet Union itself were made to

Britain last year. The initial Soviet objective would be to impede our own naval deployments at the start of hostilities - to which must be added the later purpose of obstructing the passage of troopships and freighters to and from the Continent.

But Nato's mines countermeasures (MSM) forces have been halved during the last 20 years as old vessels have been withdrawn and have not been adequately replaced. Many of those still in service are moreover in the twilight of their active lives.

In recent years there has been some realization of the need for rapid and effective replenishment. Eight of the sophisticated, multi-role Hunt class are now in service with three more under construction. Four River class minesweepers are also in service with the Royal Naval Reserve while eight more are being built - at a cost of £4.5 million each - should, like the other Hunts, be ready by 1987.

Shrinking merchant fleet causing concern

This year's White Paper also confirmed that tenders have been invited for the new class of Single Role Minesweepers (SRMH). These will be equipped with a new variable-depth anti-mine sonar, now being developed by Plessey, which should be effective against the latest Soviet mines. Meanwhile feasibility studies are under way on a new British sea mine for defensive operations which will help protect our own waters from enemy operations.

In the past the Navy has been able to call upon the mercantile marine. But the number of deep sea trawlers available for mine clearance operations under naval command has declined from 37 to 16 in the last five years alone the shrinking merchant fleet. The Ministry of

Defence together with the Ministry of Transport has commissioned a study of the problem and its consequences, which should be out soon.

Mines clearance is at least a problem which becomes acute only in wartime. Not so that which involves policing the country's 200-mile EEZ, which has added to the complexities of naval planning ever since the concept was adopted.

The job of warding off illegal poachers in Britain's fishing ground is straightforward enough, if difficult at all times to manage. The additional task of protecting the oil and gas fields from terrorists or any other peacetime threat, adds another dimension.

In wartime much of the protection duty around our shores would devolve upon our destroyer-escort fleet and our diesel-electric patrol submarines. (The first of the new class of Type-2400 conventional submarines, HMS Upholder, is now under construction as replacement for the long-serving Oberon-class boats).

In peacetime, however, it belongs to the Fishery Protection Squadron which consists of seven Ton-class minesweepers for coastal work and nine offshore vessels - seven Island-class craft and two of the larger, faster Castle-class boats - which have a helicopter flight deck (though no hangar). There has been, and continues to be, controversy over the Navy's choice of vessel, one school of critics arguing for a faster, more agile craft. But in terms of philosophy the Admiralty has probably made the right decision - that is, by plumping for a steady, long endurance patrol vessel capable of putting to sea in bad conditions and without jeopardizing the efficiency of its crew.

In general terms it is safer and quicker for the squadron to have several boats on a kind of policeman's beat ready to respond to an alert - from an oil

rig or perhaps a Nimrod maritime reconnaissance aircraft - rather than keep a detachment of light fast patrol boats near the coast, relying upon their speed to get to the trouble spot on time. The difference very much resembles that between the village policeman doing his rounds and his more modern colleague in his car. One certainly wonders why the Island-class could not have been made a little nipper than its 16 knots allows, and why a helicopter landing facility could not have been provided.

The extension of national

rights at sea has meant that Britain now has 270,000 square miles of sea to protect - including a coastline totalling more than 7,700 miles in length.

At present the Royal Navy has only one warship for every 64 miles of British coastline. While it would seem capricious to suggest that the Controller should make the protection of our shores his top priority, given the many other calls upon his budget, one might legitimately argue the case for investment in a small contingent of fast attack, missile-armed craft.

HS

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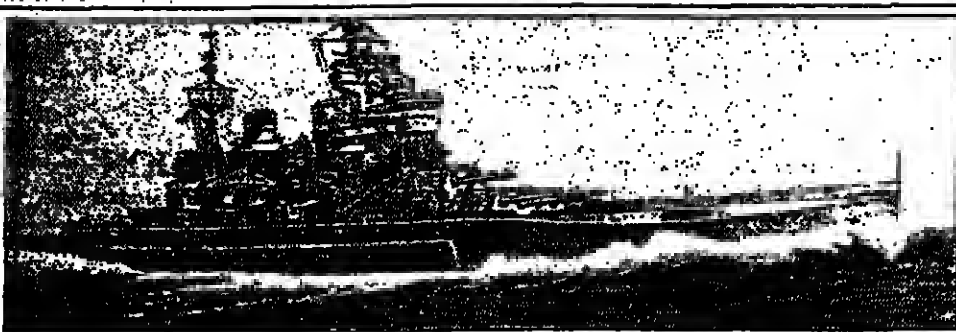
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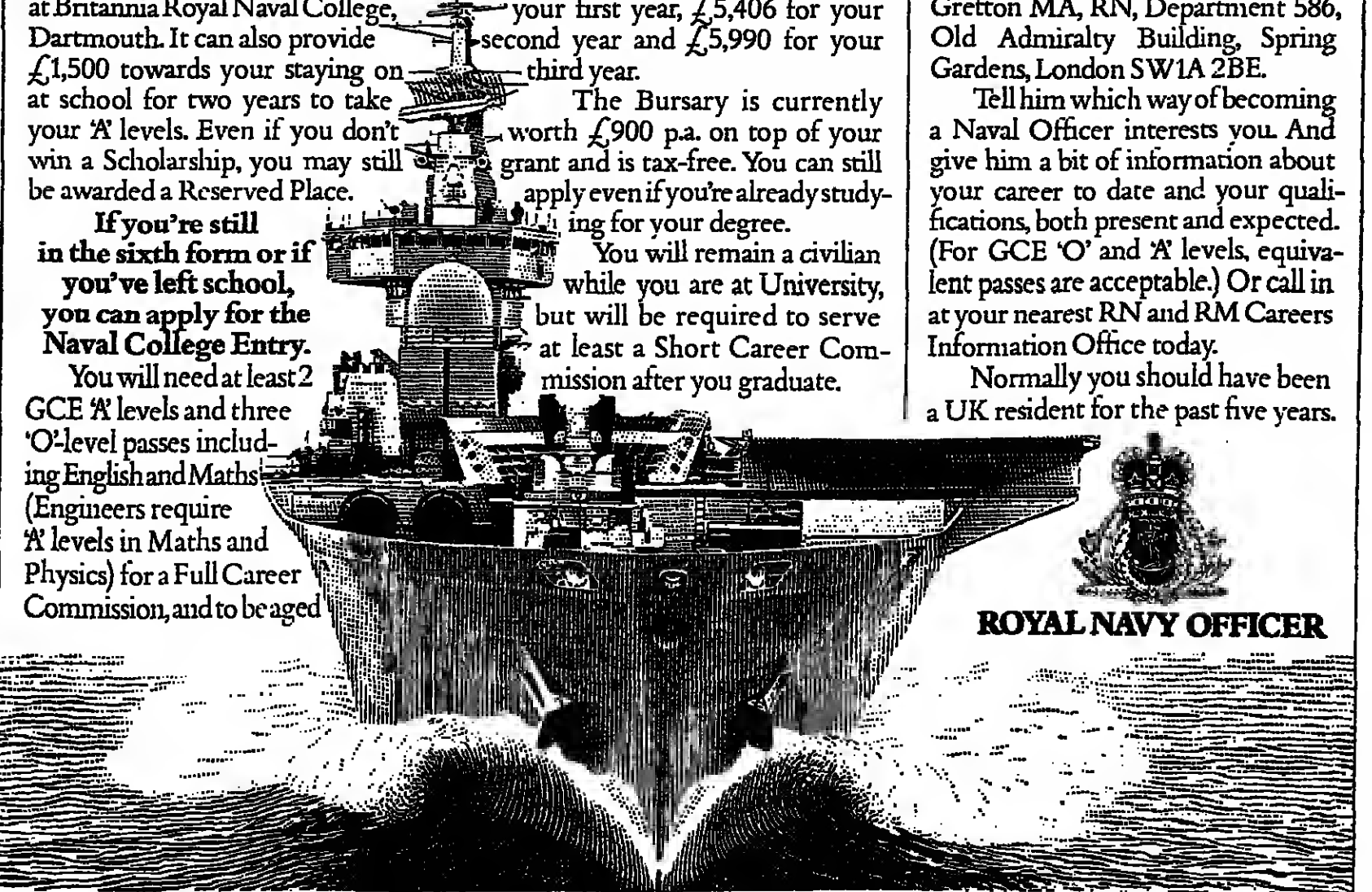


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ROYAL NAVY OFFICER

Flying men among the ships

Although it has been subject to many reductions and changes of role since the end of the Second World War, naval aviation continues to be a vital element in the Royal Navy's overall strength, and there are plans to expand it. These plans include the modernization of the vertical take-off and landing Sea Harrier, and the acquisition of 50 of the new EH101 helicopters which Britain is developing in partnership with Italy.

Two significant points stand out in the recent history of the Fleet Air Arm, as this section of the service is still generally called. The first of these was the paying-off in 1978 of the aircraft carrier HMS Ark Royal, the handing over of her Phantom fighters and Buccaneer bombers to the Royal Air Force, and the scrapping of the Gannet airborne early warning aircraft.

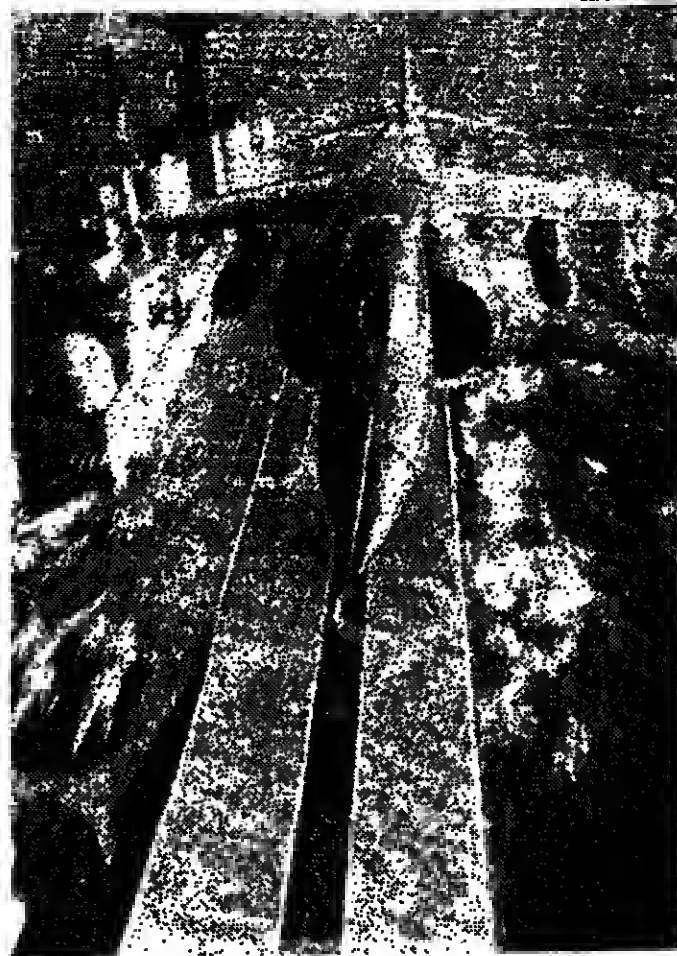
Naval aviation thus lost its independent role, and its ability to deliver nuclear weapons.

The second significant point was the Falklands War against Argentina in the summer of 1982 when the Fleet Air Arm's helicopters and Sea Harriers made an important contribution to the success of the campaign. Naval aviation's performance in that campaign did not go unnoticed in Whitehall, and although funds for the procurement of new aircraft and for the updating of those already in service, remain tight, the principle that the arm should continue is accepted, and its future seems assured.

A squadron of Sea Harriers is now embarked in each of the Royal Navy's two Invincible class anti-submarine carriers, HMS Invincible and HMS Illustrious. These ships will shortly be joined by the new HMS Ark Royal, making it the first time three carriers of the same class have been in service with the Royal Navy in more than 20 years, but no decision has yet been made as to which squadron will be based on board.

The two present seaborne Sea Harrier squadrons are 800 and 801, based up by 899 at the Fleet Air Arm base at Yeovilton, Somerset. Although 899 has the training role, it is also a front-line squadron and is ready to go to sea at short notice.

A total of 60 Sea Harriers are either in service or on order, and what is known as the "mid-life update" of these Bristol Aerospace aircraft has been agreed, and will take place between 1987 and 1991. The main features of this update will



The Sea Harriers and helicopters of the Fleet Air Arm made an important contribution to the success of the Falklands campaign - this performance did not go unnoticed in Whitehall.

be the adapting of the Sea Harrier to carry the advanced medium-range air-to-air Arrow missile, plus the sophisticated pulse-doppler radar suite which goes with it.

This will give the aircraft "beyond visual range" intercept capability, but they will continue to carry short-range Sidewinder missiles, which are also to be improved.

Fleet Air Arm helicopters perform a wide variety of roles, from detecting and destroying submarines to landing Royal Marine commandos, from patrolling the sea and ears of the fleet to searching for and rescuing survivors of wrecked aircraft and ships.

The newest helicopter squadron, 849, was formed directly as a result of the need shown up by the Falklands

campaign for an airborne early warning system to protect the fleet in distant waters.

Its Sea King helicopters were adapted, in a rush operation which went on day and night during the war in the South Atlantic, with the Thorn-EMI Searchwater radar, and the Royal Navy now has the capability to spot incoming enemy missiles and aircraft beyond the horizon.

Two carrier-borne squadrons, 814 and 820, tasked with anti-submarine duties are also equipped with Sea Kings. These carry sonar which, when submerged to the ocean, pick up the sounds made by submarines and Mark 46 torpedoes - to be replaced progressively by the new Stingray torpedo. Number 826 squadron has a similar task on the South Atlantic station, where it is

embarked on board the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Reliant.

Two other squadrons which operate anti-submarine Sea Kings are 824, which has trials responsibility, and is ready to embark aircraft on ships of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, and 819, which is based ashore at Prestwick, Scotland.

Two squadrons, 829 and 815, both based at Portland, supply individual helicopters for the Navy's small ships, the former flying the Wasp, the latter the Lynx.

Wasp are on board 16 ships, while there are 53 Lynx in operational and training use, many serving with County class destroyers, Leander class frigates, and Type 21, 22 and 42 class ships.

Every aircraft is crewed by a pilot, an observer and up to nine maintainers. The main task of the ship-borne flights is anti-submarine, and the Lynx is equipped with the Skua air-to-surface missile. Lynx modernization will begin in 1988.

For its commando-support role, the Fleet Air Arm operates two front-line squadrons, 845 with Wessex helicopters, and 846 with Sea Kings. A total of 20 Sea King Commandos are in service, and a further nine are on order for delivery during the next two years, when they are expected to form a further front-line squadron. Anti-submarine Sea Kings are to be updated during the next three years and will be given radars with greater definition of contacts, and sonars which will operate at greater depths.

Behind these front-line squadrons are a number of second-lines, all with numbers starting with seven, performing search and rescue, pilot training, and several other specialized roles, and operating a variety of aircraft including the Gazelle, Jetstream, Chipmunk, Canberra, Hunter and Falcon 20.

The Fleet Air Arm awaits the arrival into service of the EH101, a sophisticated three-engine aircraft which, in its civil version, will seat more than 30 passengers, with eagerness.

The first batch will be allocated, they arrive in the early 1990s, to individual ships in the fleet as Lynx replacements, but it is hoped that further purchases could be used to replace Sea Kings in the airborne early warning and commando roles in the longer-distant future.

Arthur Reed



Though one of the most illustrious formations in the armed forces, the Royal Marines, have had to fight for survival over the years. In the mid-1970s, and again in 1981, serious questions were raised about the need to retain the amphibious capability. On both occasions the Marines survived.

Their contribution was fundamental to the success of the Falklands operation, and the increasing importance being attached to the defence of Norway and the seas around it, as well as the need for Britain to retain an ability to operate outside the Nato area, have all helped to place their continued existence beyond doubt. What is, however, uncertain is how well equipped they will be to fulfil their role.

In the 1981 defence review it was originally intended to dispose of the assault ships, HMS Fearless and Intrepid, which would have emasculated the Navy's ability to mount an

Marines win the survival battle

amphibious operation. Both ships are to have refits which will enable them to continue in service for another 10 years.

Even so, Britain's ability to deploy amphibious forces has been diminished through the withdrawal from the active fleet of HMS Hermes. However, with two assault ships, about six logistics landing ships (LSLs) and the possibility of using the Invincible-class carriers to carry Marines, Britain for the moment maintains a reasonable capacity for deploying amphibious forces.

The assault ships and several LSLs will need replacement by the middle of the 1990s, and the question exercising the Royal Marines and the Royal Navy is what form these replacements will take, and whether they will provide an adequate basis for the Corps' operations.

Lieutenant-General Sir Stuart Fringle, who retired last year as Commandant-General of the Royal Marines, has argued that Britain should retain an ability to deploy at least two-thirds of its amphibious force in specialist shipping.

However, it is estimated that a direct replacement of the assault ships and the LSLs could cost up to £800 million, and there are doubts whether resources could be found on that scale. Various options are being studied, but Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, has said that he does not expect them to come to him for decision until about the middle of next year.

Meanwhile, the Marines are seeking remedies for deficiencies in other equipment. They are particularly concerned that they lack an area air defence weapon, and are pressing for Rapier missiles. In addition they are seeking an additional artillery battery, more engineering support, and possibly some armoured reconnaissance vehicles.

One of their difficulties is that such equipment would be largely manned by the Army, which is already struggling to find enough manpower for its own needs.

No important aspect of modern amphibious operations is the ability to put men and equipment ashore by helicopter.

Sir Stuart has set the requirement as being to be able to land 300 men simultaneously, with equipment and support weapons. For this purpose 24 Sea King Mark IV helicopters are operated by the Commando Helicopter Operations and Support Cell of the Fleet Air Arm.

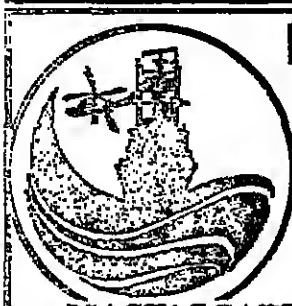
It has been suggested that the range of these helicopters such that in a period of tension they would be able to fly to Norway. However, their general effectiveness will be dependent on the availability of shipping from which to operate.

The helicopters spend three or four months every winter training with 3 Commando Brigade in the arctic conditions of Norway. It is as arctic warfare specialists that the Corps is probably now most famous, but it is not their only concern. 1 Commando is not trained in arctic or mountain warfare, and its likely war role would be in the Baltic area, or in Norway in summer, or on the Atlantic islands.

Apart from the mainline war roles, the Royal Marines have a number of other specialist tasks, which are carried out by special units such as the Special Boat Squadron, the raiding squadrons, and the Comacchio Group, which is responsible for guarding the North Sea oil and gas installations against terrorist or other attack.

On top of that some marines are trained in jungle warfare, and most will at times be involved in conventional infantry duties, for example in Northern Ireland.

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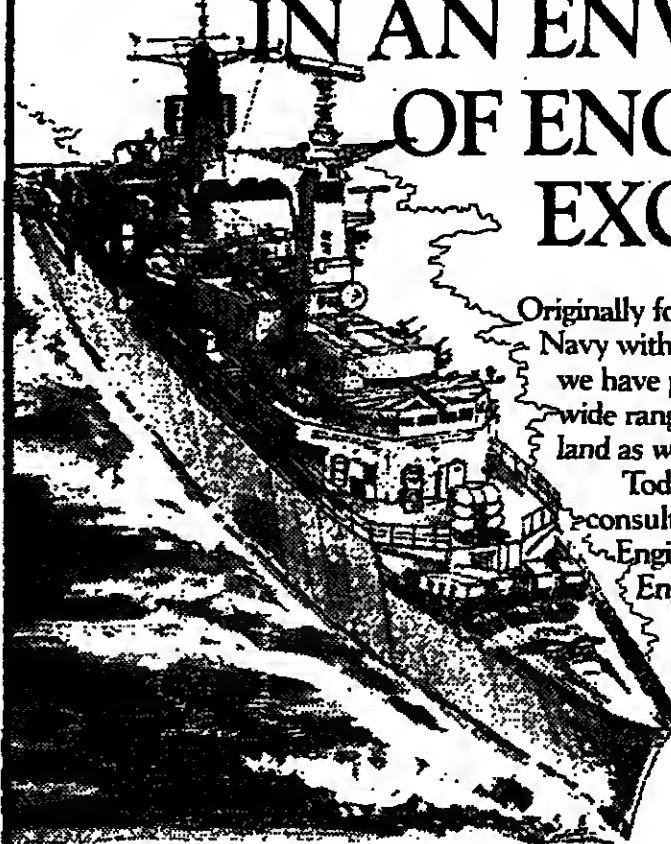
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The cost of ruling the waves



The Royal Navy is one of Britain's largest customers. The Ministry of Defence bill for naval equipment (including repair work) runs to £2,000 million a year, having roughly doubled in the last five years. This includes everything from ships and submarines costing over £100 million each to the smallest bar of soap. A further £400 million is being spent each year on the development of the Navy's anticipated needs, such as missiles, electronic warfare systems and more sophisticated sonars. Much of this work is carried out in partnership with leading defence contractors.

With these kind of sums around, it is hardly surprising that a Tory government intent on controlling public spending should take a keen interest in the Navy's procurement activities. Since Mr Heseltine took over as Secretary of State for Defence two years ago, he has introduced a series of changes designed to ensure that the Government gets better value for money.

The changes include more competitive tendering for contracts, the ending of the old "preferred source" system of favoured contractors (for example, Marconi's historically dominant position in the naval radar field), and the gradual introduction of more fixed-price contracts to replace the old cost-plus-fixed-fee formula.

Flexible specifications raise hopes for export orders

These changes apply to all the services, but there is one innovation in which the Navy has played a prominent role: the so-called Cardinal Points Specification system, intended to be a more flexible way of specifying equipment.

Industrialists have often complained that over-ambiguous and detailed specifications have involved them in manufacturing such sophisticated equipment that the potential for export has been lost. The new system lays down minimum specifications - the "cardinal points" - but leaves it to contractors to design much more of the peripherals.

The most notable test of the new system has been in the ordering of equipment for the new Type 23 frigates, expected to start coming into service in the late 1980s. A contract for surveillance radar for the new ships, for example, was awarded recently to Philips, whose winning design was a radar that it had already sold to Nigeria - and which cost less than its predecessor on the Type 22s. According to a recent analysis by defence experts at the

stockbrokers De Zoete & Bevan, all the new systems for the Type 23s procured under the Cardinal Points regime in its first year have turned out cheaper than their originals, with savings of up to 40 per cent in some cases.

The determination to throw the field open to competition was graphically demonstrated last year when the Navy ordered the American Harpoon surface-to-surface missile for both Type 22 and Type 23 frigates, in preference of the rival system developed by British Aerospace.

Another important step has been the decision to order new frigates for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary fleet: the contractor that wins the competitive tender will for the first time have complete responsibility for the design and build of the vessels, including procurement and installation of equipment.

The biggest items in the Navy's procurement budget are ships and submarines, though missiles and electronic warfare systems are taking an increasing proportion. All purchases are handled by the Sea Systems Controller in the Ministry of Defence's Procurement Executive.

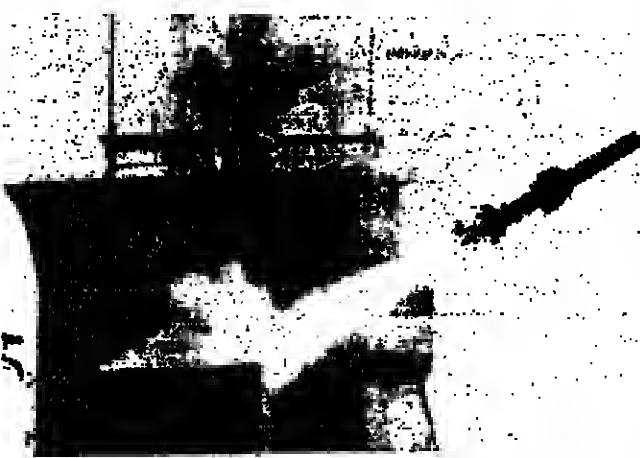
The ordering of the new frigates which the Navy says it needs to maintain its operating capacity is finally under way after months of delays which had led to renewed speculation about cuts in the strength of the surface fleet. The first of the new frigates was ordered from the Yarrow yard on Clydeside last year, and Mr Heseltine has announced that he intends to place a second order for the £110 million ships with Swan Hunter on Tyneside. The announcement, in January, was accompanied by news that two long outstanding orders for the older Type 22 frigates were being placed, one at Swan Hunter and the other at the troubled Cammell Laird yard on Merseyside.

The whole ship ordering programme has brought into focus the Government's ambitious plans for privatizing the shipyard industry, nationalized as part of British Shipbuilders in 1977. The Government's aim is to sell off all the yards individually by spring 1986.

The Yarrow yard on Clydeside, which made a profit of £11 million last year, became earlier this year the first big yard to be sold, for £34 million. The other yards are expected to follow soon.

The sale has attracted some controversy, but little beside Mr Heseltine's proposals to privatize the royal dockyards at Devonport and Rosyth. The dockyards employ 20,000 people and have an annual turnover of £400 million.

Jonathan Davis
Business Correspondent



The American Harpoon, ordered by the Royal Navy

Navy Spending				
	1982-83	1983-4	1984-5	1985-6
Submarines	463	468	322	408
Aircraft and ASW carriers	71	140	94	78
Amphibious forces	52	60	78	81
Destroyers and frigates	636	722	881	738
Miner counter-measures vessels	150	159	137	145
Other vessels	204	285	466	452
Aircraft	198	242	312	291
Fleet headquarters	26	24	123	119
Overseas shore establishments	61	49	61	37
Naval bases and operational support	-	-	209	156

Source: Defence Estimates, 1985

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Young sailors get on course for tomorrow's fleet

done by reducing shore training time. So much so, in fact, that some senior officers are questioning the safety and efficiency of their ships. A recent court martial following the collision of a destroyer with a buoy resulted in a report highlighting the lack of bridge experience in the surface fleet.

Training time is being trimmed but quality has improved

After basic training junior officers of the watch have to take a specialized course before they can join their first ship. This has recently been cut from 16 to 13 weeks. Twenty years or so ago it was 46 weeks. Yet ships, with their radar, computers, sonar and aircraft are more complex.

The ratings are also having their onshore training cut, in most cases by about 10 per cent.

Some shore training establishments are closing, such as HMS Vernon in Portsmouth

which specializes in mine warfare, diving and seamanship. It will start to close next year, its functions to be gradually passed to the School of Maritime Operations at HMS Dryad a few miles away.

Captain Roger Heptinstall, the Navy's chief staff officer for training, says it is difficult to

measure the effects of the cuts. "You have to look at the whole picture, which depends on the intelligence of the man, whether he likes what he's doing, and the length of onshore training and at sea training."

He says that the quality of courses is better, and a lot of superfluous elements - such as sports days, or aircraft training for men who are never going to fly - are being dropped.

Captain Heptinstall is based at the Old Naval Academy in Portsmouth. It is the organ-

izational centre of a self-sustained training network spread across the country. The Navy has about 3,000 courses ranging from one week to several years. There are some 7,000 trainees at any one time. The annual cost is £160 million.

Ratings and WRNS (Women's Royal Naval Service) usually start at 16 at HMS Raleigh at Torpoint in Cornwall. They go through in eight weeks, at the rate of about 4,000 a year.

Artificers - of technicians - then go, on to schools to do their apprenticeships in weapons, marine or aircraft engineering, joining their first ship at 17. At 25 or 26 they can be chief petty officers.

Ordinary seamen who joined with lower qualifications or none at all will go on to schools to become mechanics, cooks, divers, gun operators or whatever.

HMS Collingwood, the school for weapon engineering, is the largest naval training establishment in western Europe. It is being rebuilt to provide modern buildings.

HMS Sultan, the marine engineering school, teaches officers and ratings all about the complicated machinery packed into a warship, ranging from diesel generators to the aircraft carrier Olympus version on the gas turbine engine used in Concorde.

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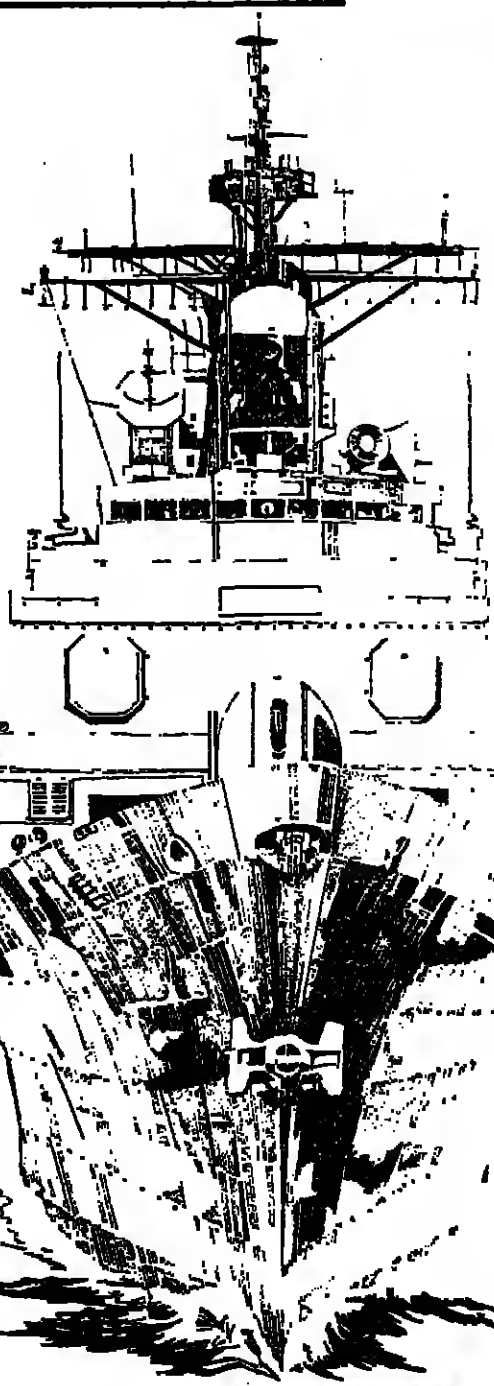
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